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THE TIMES

INTERNATIONAL
EDITION

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TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18 1992

40p

Ambush victim was freed after Old Bailey jury rejected terror charge

Cleared IRA man shot by SAS

BY EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

SAS soldiers are believed to be behind the ambush of an IRA unit in Northern Ireland which left four of them dead, including a man cleared by an Old Bailey jury of arms offences last year, it emerged last night.

Kevin Barry O'Donnell, aged 21, was also a prime suspect in the IRA bombing of an army barracks at Tern Hill, Shropshire, three years ago. At his trial, O'Donnell told the jury he had been horrified to discover the rifles in his car and was on his way to dump them when stopped by police.

He had told them: "I am not a member of the IRA. I do not support the IRA. I come from a devout Catholic family and do not support the taking of life." The jury believed him and he was freed on a majority verdict.

Security sources were last night said to be indicating involvement of the elite army unit in the intense gun battle at Coalisland, Co Tyrone, late on Sunday night but in line with official policy the army refused to acknowledge the unit had been used.

O'Donnell, from Coalisland, was convicted on two lesser charges of possessing guns to endanger life and sentenced to nine months in youth custody, but was set free and expelled to Northern Ireland because he had already spent ten months on remand.

O'Donnell died with three others in the car park of a church outside Coalisland. He was part of an IRA assault team which may have involved up to ten men, making its getaway after attacking the town's police station.

Police named the other dead as Sean O'Farrell, aged 22, and Peter Clancy, aged 21, both from Coalisland, and Patrick Daniel Vincent, an active member of the IRA, had been questioned by the police but never charged.

Lloyd's is defended

David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's, has strongly denied suggestions from politicians that there was any scandal involving dishonesty at the insurance market. Page 17

Polish U-turn

Poland has indicated that it will abandon the "shock therapy" reforms which brought in Thatcherite tight-money policies. The decision led to mass resignations in the finance ministry. Page 10

Royal tour

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will arrive in Australia today for a seven-day visit amid calls for the country to become a republic by the turn of the century. Page 11

Falkland hero

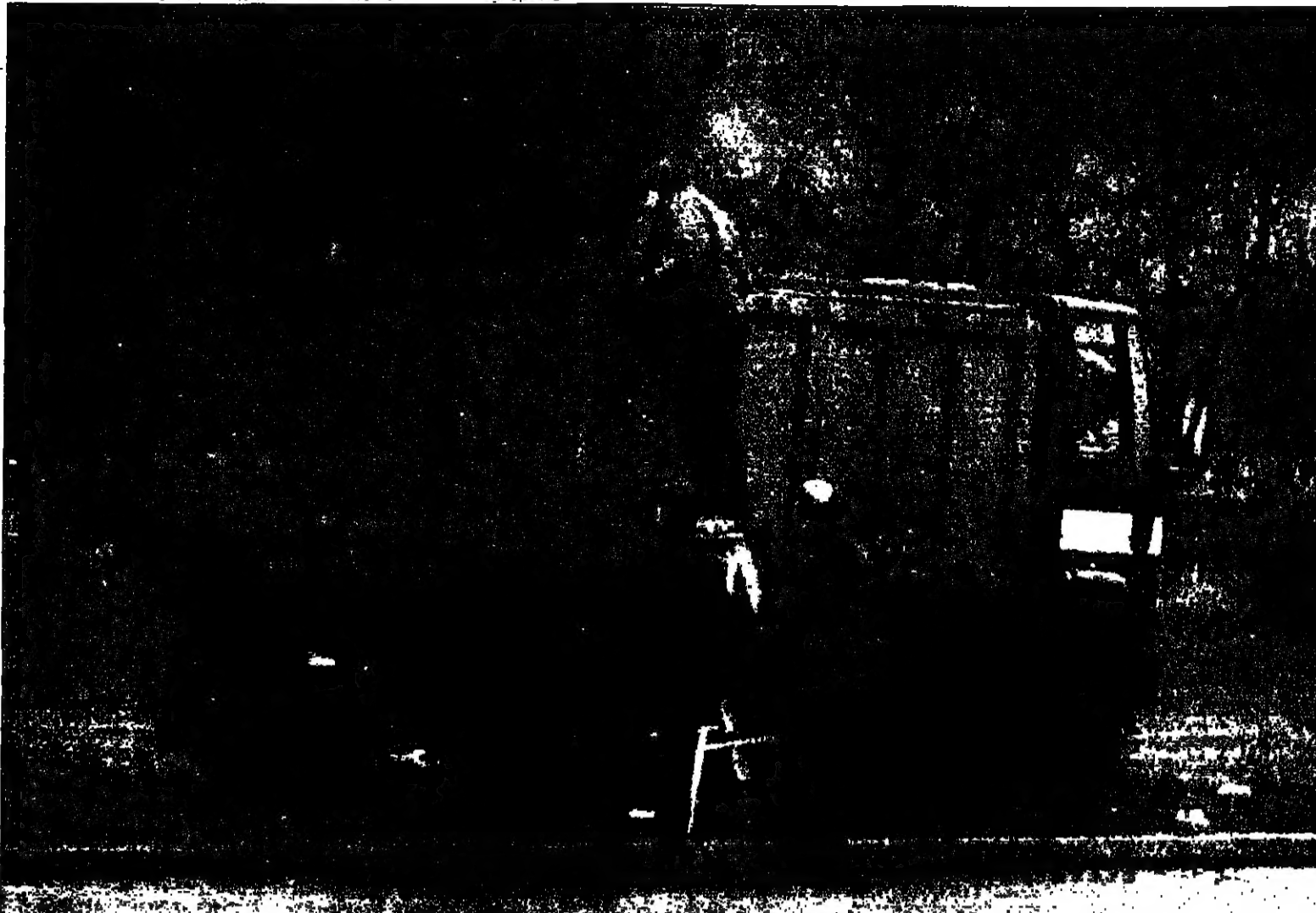
Lord Fieldhouse, former chief of the defence staff, who masterminded the Falklands task force in 1982, has died at the age of 64. Obituary, page 15

Younis out

Waqar Younis, the Pakistani fast bowler, has withdrawn from cricket's World Cup because of a back injury. Page 32

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IRA attacker: the lorry, with a 12.7mm heavy machine gun mounted on the back, which was ambushed by soldiers

aged 20, from Dungannon. Security sources said O'Farrell had been an active member of the IRA for some years. He was charged in April last year together with O'Donnell after assault rifles and an RPG-7 rocket were found in a car in which they were travelling.

The case was later dropped after the owner of the car, accepted responsibility for the weapons. Clancy, also regarded as an active member of the IRA, had been questioned by the police but never charged.

The exact sequence of events on Sunday night are still unclear. In particular, police were unable to say pending forensic examination of weapons whether the IRA had opened fire on soldiers in the car park before they were killed.

According to the police, the Provisional unit travelling in a lorry launched a sustained gun attack on the police station at about 10.35pm, firing from several points and deploying a 12.7mm heavy machine gun from the back of the lorry. The vehicle was later recovered, together with a number of assault rifles.

The IRA team then drove out of the town to a car park at St Patrick's Church at Clonoe and appeared to be in



O'Donnell: cleared by a jury of gun-running

the process of abandoning the lorry for a number of cars, when soldiers, who lay in wait, opened fire.

Local people spoke of the soldiers wearing unusual uniforms. One eyewitness said they were wearing dark jackets, running shoes, and peaked caps with the word 'army' written in luminous letters. Only one soldier was slightly injured during the shooting. While security forces expressed satisfaction

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Analysis and background, page 2

Leading article, page 13

Hezbollah vows revenge as rockets strike Israel

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN KIRYAT SHMONA AND ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

THE shock waves from rockets exploding in northern Israel put new pressure on the delicate hopes for Middle East peace yesterday as Hezbollah sought to avenge their assassinated leader.

The first barrage on Israeli towns and villages along the Lebanese border in a decade triggered a day of artillery duels between Israeli and Lebanese forces. General Ehud Barak, Israeli chief of staff, said that between 20 and 30 Soviet-made Katyusha rockets were fired, some of them landing in the Israeli-controlled security zone in southern Lebanon, but several reaching heavily populated Israeli civilian areas from the Mediterranean to the Golan Heights.

Across the border in Lebanon, an armed Muslim fundamentalist beat their breasts and demanded retribution as the body of Sheikh Abbas Moussawi was taken

north to the Shik suburbs of south Beirut and on to Baalbek where 100,000 mourners greeted the arrival of the remains. He will be buried in Nabatieh village today.

"We are trying to hit the sources of this shooting with artillery; unfortunately, some of the targets are in or near civilian villages (in Lebanon)," General Barak said after inspecting a company of Israeli airborne troops before they were flown into Lebanon on combat duty. "The Lebanese army and government should be responsible for stopping the shooting; otherwise, the price will be costly for the other side."

As he spoke, Israeli artillery batteries and their South Lebanon Army allies pounded the suspected villages in southern Lebanon. A witness described the barrages as "all-out war". Despite appeals from Britain, America and other Western nations, the fighting showed no signs of abating.

There were no Israeli casualties when the salvo of rockets struck at about 7am, but they succeeded in penetrating Israel's hi-tech security apparatus and causing momentary panic among civilians in the mountain region of northern Galilee.

In Beirut, a previously unknown fundamentalist organisation issued a statement urging Hezbollah to execute all Israeli prisoners it has been holding since 1986, especially Ron Arad, an air force navigator. The Lebanese government, for its part, called for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the Israeli attacks. May Ka-

haleh, for the president, said that the council of ministers was remaining in session to deal with any emergency.

Meanwhile, the hitherto unknown group, "Units to defend the Oppressed and the Disinherited around the World", released a statement to a Western news agency urging vengeance for Sheikh Moussawi's death.

The group asked in a handwritten statement "the captors of the Israeli navigator and prisoners to immediately execute them and declare war against all Israeli interests around the world." The group was referring to Arad and at least six Israeli servicemen missing in action in Lebanon on various occasions since 1982. All are believed dead except Arad, who may be held by Syria.

The Lebanese army command said that it has placed all its units in south Lebanon on alert and had sent a commando battalion to support the army on the front.

Prosper Azran, mayor of Kiryat Shmona, tried to ease concern among the people of this development town, but residents were quick to recall the bombardments that plagued the border area before the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon code-named "Operation Peace for Galilee".

General Barak said yesterday: "The only way to impose restraint on Hezbollah is either by Syrian pressure or Israeli military response... if they succeed, there will be a relaxation of the situation; if not, we will respond."

Photograph, page 11
Peace struggle, page 11
Leading article, page 13

Judge calls for shorter trials

A CALL for shorter and simpler fraud trials was made yesterday by Mr Justice McKinnon as he handed down suspended jail sentences on four City advisers at the end of the year-long Blue Arrow hearing.

The judge, at 53 one of the youngest on the High Court bench, said: "There must be some other way of dealing with cases of this kind. No jury, no defendant, no family and no judge should ever have to face what we have had to face."

The Old Bailey jury that

found the four men guilty of conspiracy to defraud had been told how they deliberately misled the market at the time of Blue Arrow's record £837 million rights issue in September 1987 to fund the takeover of Manpower, a larger American employment company.

Jonathan Cohen, aged 48, deputy chief executive of NatWest Investment Bank and chief executive of County NatWest, David Reed, aged 44, former executive director and managing director of corporate finance at County

NatWest, and Nicholas Wells, aged 37, former County NatWest executive director, were given 18-month prison sentences, suspended for two years. Martin Gibbs, aged 62, a former director of UBS Phillips and Drew, was given a 12-month term suspended for two years.

After the hearing, Gareth Williams, QC, chairman of the Bar, joined the judge in a call for fraud trial reform. He said juries should be retained but hearings simplified.

End of the trial, page 3

Brain transplant gives bees an instant memory

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH scientists are claiming to have transplanted memories from adult bees into the brains of bee embryos which allows them to navigate back to a hive the instant they are born.

The research, which has been undertaken at Wolverhampton polytechnic, involves extracting proteins and molecules from the brains of adult bees that have already learnt the route and injecting these into bees developing in the hive.

The researchers drill a microscopic hole through the wax which caps off an embryo in the honeycomb when the bees are just a few days old. An extremely fine syringe is needed to inject the materials which have been taken from the adult bee brain, an organ which is about a cubic millimetre in size is little bigger than a pin-head. In tests 90 per

cent of the bees which have received the transplant could navigate back home after being placed in a field a mile away.

Normally bees need to spend some time familiarising themselves with their surroundings picking out clues such as coloured plants before tackling a flight home.

Steve Ray, senior lecturer in physiological psychology at the polytechnic and the scientists behind the research, said the findings contrasted with newly born bees which had not had transplants. "None could find their way back which was intriguing," he said.

The researchers, who have spent five years on the bee brain transplants, also found that treated bees began looking for food after being released, an activity which a bee normally only undertakes later in life.

"Normally a new-born bee will stay inside the hive and do house duties. When we released these bees not only

did they find their way back to the donor bees hive but they started foraging. So they actually took on the behaviour of the donor bee," said Dr Ray.

The team are hoping to extend the research to higher animals with the long term hope of helping humans with brain damage. Dr Ray said many people suffering head injuries experience swelling of the brain which has to be removed surgically. It was possible that some of this surgically removed tissue could be injected back into a healthy part of the brain to restore functions such as speech.

Jeffrey Gray, professor of psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, said there was now firm research supporting the transfer of brain tissue from rat foetuses to adults with damaged brains to help restore various abilities. However, there was no evidence that memories could be transferred from an adult to an embryo.



Court forbids abortion for rape victim

BY A STAFF REPORTER

IRELAND'S Attorney General was called upon to resign yesterday after the High Court in Dublin granted him an injunction preventing a rape victim aged 14 from having an abortion.

The High Court ruling by Mr Justice Declan Costello was delivered amid growing controversy about the case, which is based on the republic's ban on abortion written into the constitution after a divisive referendum in 1983.

The ruling was delivered during a 45-minute session in camera and was published last night. It prevents the girl, an alleged victim of sexual abuse and rape, from travelling to Britain for a termination.

The parents of the girl, who was reported yesterday to be under constant medical supervision in hospital amid concern about her mental state, are expected to launch an appeal to the Supreme Court within a week. However, there is thought to be only two weeks left during which an abortion can be carried out safely and recourse to the Supreme Court could take months.

Proinsias de Rossa, leader of the Workers' Party, said the judge's decision would deter women and rape victims reporting to the police in future. He called on Harry Whelehan, the Attorney General, to resign.

"This is an appalling consequence of the totally unnecessary and ill-conceived amendment foisted on the Irish people in 1983," Mr de Rossa said, adding that he would be raising the case in The Dail.

Maxine Brady, president of the Students Union of Ireland, which openly flouts the law by distributing information on abortion clinics in Britain, visited by an estimated 4,000 Irish women each year, said the judgment had massive implications for women, particularly those who had been raped or whose lives may be at risk as a result of pregnancy.

She claimed the judgment was also in breach of EC treaties which allow for the free movement of citizens to take advantage of medical services in other member states.

Continued on page 16, col 1

TODAY IN
THE TIMES

AS SAFE
AS HOUSES?



Would Stephanie Slater win if she sued her employers over lack of job safety? Life & Times Page 9

HALF-TERM
BREAKDOWN



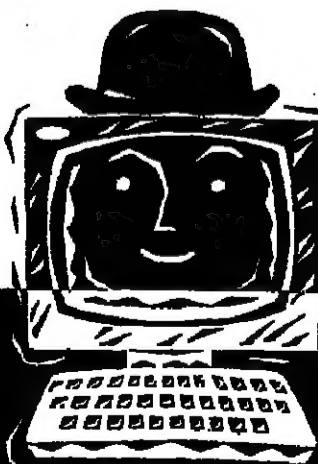
Differing half-term holidays can give parents a headache Life & Times Page 4

TONIC FROM
DR JAZZ



At 73, saxist Andy Hamilton's career is on the upswing Life & Times Page 3

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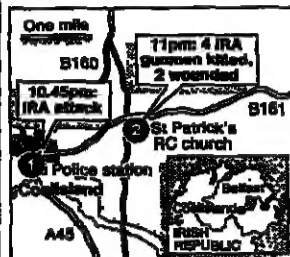
Member of IRA team shot by soldiers cleared twice in a year of serious firearms charges

Police link O'Donnell to mainland campaign

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BARRY "Bod" O'Donnell died at the hands of the security forces after a career which Scotland Yard now suspects included an early part in the current IRA mainland campaign. Yet twice in the past year O'Donnell faced serious firearms charges only to be acquitted at the Central Criminal Court and freed in Northern Ireland.

Police believe that the man who publicly disavowed political violence may have been involved in the attempted attack on Tern Hill barracks in Shropshire in 1989. A getaway car was found close to where he was later discovered sleeping.



They suspect he could have had links to the IRA unit which carried out the first bombing of the campaign at a north London army base six months earlier.

His role as a leading figure in the raid which led to his death indicates, according to police, that O'Donnell was an experienced IRA activist rising in the loosely formed ranks. The other men who died with him were Sean O'Farrell, Peter Vincent and Patrick Clancy. All are known to the police and several are also suspected of having been active on the mainland during the current campaign.

They were recruited for the mainland, as the IRA turned away from its traditional sources of manpower in Belfast and Londonderry. Instead, the commanders looked to the border country, the Irish Republic and smaller Ulster Catholic communities.

Born the third of seven children in a Catholic fam-



Clancy: shot and killed in car during ambush

ily from the small country town of Coalisland, Co Tyrone, O'Donnell spent 18 months at Harper Adams College of Agriculture at Egmont, Shropshire. He was in his last term in May 1990 when he was arrested by police in London after a car chase. Two semi-automatic weapons were found in the car.

At the trial last spring O'Donnell, then 20, said he often spent weekends in London with a cousin. The cousin once revealed the car had been lent to IRA men to store weapons. His cousin, who disappeared, agreed to lead him to a place where the guns could be dumped. O'Donnell said he abhorred violence and came from a devoutly religious family.

The jury was out for more than 11 hours before acquitting him in the week that the Birmingham Six were freed. O'Donnell's case became the first of three IRA trials at the Central Criminal Court which have led to acquittals. Cleared of possession of guns to endanger life, he was convicted of simple possession and was given nine months youth custody. He was released because he had been in custody since his arrest.

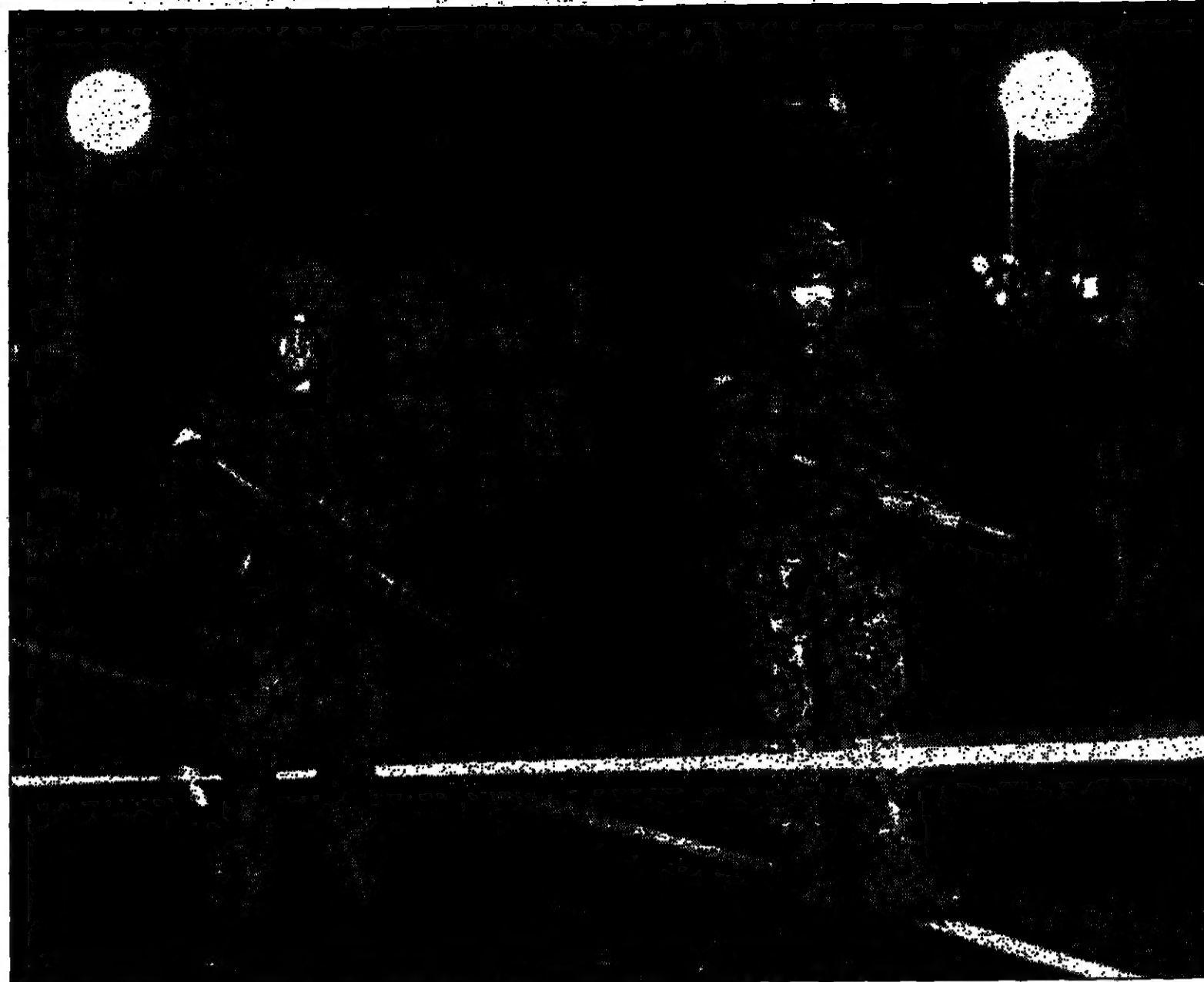
O'Donnell was sent back to Northern Ireland via an exclusion order issued under the prevention of terrorism act. A month later he was in court again, this time in Ulster, accused of possession of an assault rifle and a rocket propelled grenade launcher with O'Farrell, one of the other men killed in the shooting.

The case against the two men was dropped. Afterwards O'Donnell claimed "certain sections" of the security forces in East Tyrone were waging a vendetta against him and had told him he was a "marked man".

IRA links, page 1
Leading article, page 13



O'Farrell: faced gun charge with O'Donnell



Gun patrol: troops guard the spot in Coalisland where soldiers shot dead four gang members who had opened fire on a police station

Weeks of planning go into SAS ambush operations

THE deaths of four members of the IRA at Coalisland on Sunday night brings to at least 14 the number killed in undercover army ambushes since April 1990. All but three were apparent republican suspects.

These operations are usually carried out by members of the SAS, which has a permanent presence in Northern Ireland, though the army never acknowledges this.

The operations are often the result of weeks of careful planning and surveillance work, and sometimes use information from informers within IRA ranks. They invariably involve claims from Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, of an officially sponsored "shoot to kill" policy, or that "unnecessary force" was used and that arrests could have been made. Both claims were made by Sinn Féin yesterday.

Unionist politicians applauded what they took to be the first evidence of a new, more aggressive approach by the security forces, in the wake of their recent talks with the prime minister. But other observers interpreted the events at Coalisland as merely the latest development in a long-term strategy. Army sources stressed that the ambush followed a number of attacks by republicans in recent weeks on police stations in Co Tyrone. It

Edward Gorman reports that the pattern of Sunday's ambush of four IRA men follows a tested formula

may be significant that this latest episode comes almost exactly a month after an IRA unit killed eight Protestant workmen in a land mine explosion just 15 miles from Coalisland.

This pattern of a major IRA operation followed by an army killing is reminiscent of events in Co Tyrone in August 1988, when three IRA members, including Gerard and Martin Harne, were shot by the army within weeks of an IRA bus bombing in the Ballygawley road, in which nine soldiers died. It was thought that at least one of those killed by the army had been involved in the bombing.

Among the most significant army undercover killings in the last two years was the shooting of three men said by the IRA to be on "active service" in Co Tyrone, in June last year. Soldiers involved in what security forces called "a specialist covert army operation" fired up to 200 shots at the men's hijacked car as they drove into the village, apparently on their way to kill a group of Protestant

workmen. The dead included Peter Ryan, the IRA's leading gunman in mid Ulster, responsible for a series of murders and described by a senior police officer as "a big, big fish".

In an earlier shooting, in October 1990, undercover soldiers killed Dessie Drew and Martin McCaughy at a farmhouse near Loughgall in Co Armagh as they prepared for an IRA mission. Drew was another, experienced member of the IRA, wanted for killings in Ulster and Europe, while McCaughy was a former Sinn Féin councillor.

Other killings include a member of the Irish People's Liberation Organisation, shot in April 1990, while trying to kill a police reservist, and, the following November, a member of the Irish National Liberation Army, shot during an attack on the home of an Ulster Defence Regiment soldier.

While in most of these cases victims of SAS-type operations have turned out to be members of republican paramilitary groups, this could not be said in the case of these three criminals shot dead in west Belfast in January 1990. They were robbing a betting shop, carrying replica weapons. Irish police found an IRA arms bunker and 1,000 rounds of ammunition in remote countryside in Co Kerry yesterday.

Third machine gun recovered

THE recovery by the security forces of a 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine gun after the Coalisland shooting is a significant blow to the IRA, and brings to at least three the number recovered in the past two years (Edward Gorman writes).

The IRA is thought to have received at least six of the guns in arms shipments from Libya in the mid-1980s, and has used them against army helicopters, checkpoints and in ambushes of the security forces.

The Soviet-made weapons, designed in 1969 for anti-aircraft or heavy infantry support roles, are usually deployed by the Provisionals on a tripod mounted on the back of a lorry. They have a range of up to 2,000 metres and a rate of fire of 700 to 800 rounds per minute.

In October 1989, PC Michael Marshall, aged 25, was killed when an IRA unit in a lorry overtook his car on

a road in South Armagh. They lifted the cover from the back of their vehicle and open fired with such a gun. The same weapon was thought to have been previously used in an attack on an army helicopter in the county a year earlier.

PC Marshall died in a hail of half-inch diameter bullets, capable of blasting holes in his body the size of a dinner plate. A colleague escaped alive, despite his leg being hit by the machine gun.

That attack was followed in December 1990 by the deployment of the gun during a major IRA assault on a remote military checkpoint close to the border at Derrymore in Co Fermanagh. Two soldiers were killed.

Since then the army has installed Browning-type heavy machine guns at many checkpoints in Northern Ireland to deter similar attacks.

Weight (empty) 38.15kg
Length (overall) 1.65m
Length of barrel 1.143m
Muzzle velocity 930m/s

£20,000 for victims of 'police racism'

Two black people who claimed they were treated as caged animals after being stopped for alleged speeding, were yesterday awarded £20,000 in an out of court settlement against the Metropolitan Police (writes Lin Jenkins).

The award, to Rodney Pilgrim, 31, from Barbados, and his cousin, Valerie Marche, 30, of Stratford, east London, was announced at Croydon county court, south London. An agreed statement read to Judge Goodman said the offer had been accepted. The police would also pay the pair's costs.

Mr Pilgrim was arrested on suspicion of possessing cannabis on December 4, 1988. He and Mrs Marche had been in a car driven by her tax consultant husband, Patrick, 32, when they were stopped in east London.

In a personal statement after the hearing, the three said the officers who had carried out "this very callous and appalling act" were very lucky because the offer had been accepted only because they did not have the funds to take the case further. "We would deem ourselves respectable citizens, but on the night of the incident we were treated as caged animals, having no say and no rights," they said.

Both sued for false imprisonment, and Mr Pilgrim also sued for malicious prosecution. They claimed aggravated and exemplary damages on the basis that the case had been fabricated and that there had been a racist element in their treatment. The police denied the claims.

Chip shop to beat town ban

An Essex seaside resort which has long banned amusement arcades, ice-cream kiosks and even public houses, looks certain to get its first fish and chip shop. Tendring district council, which controls planning in Frinton-on-Sea, says that proposals to convert a tea room in the centre of the town do not need an application for a change of use.

By-laws in Frinton also outlaw nude bathing, ball games and "the playing of radios on the promenade."

Tennant dies of heart attack

The Hon James Tennant, who was involved last summer in an acrimonious dispute with his next door neighbour, has died of a heart attack at the age of 62. It was learned yesterday. He was in the midst of litigation with Charles Saatchi, the advertising magnate, in which both alleged harassment at the their adjoining £1 million terrace, Chelsea, west London.

Nato posting

Lieutenant-General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie is to be the first commander of Nato's new multinational rapid reaction corps. Sir Jeremy, aged 51, commander of 1st British Corps in Germany since last autumn, will take up his post later this year. He has a reputation for being a popular and highly effective commander. Britain is to provide two divisions for the rapid reaction corps.

Elton sells

ELTON John, the pop singer, is selling his £1.25 million flat in Chelsea Harbour, west London. He bought the 15th floor flat just over a year ago and spent £100,000 on renovating and decorating it, but decided not to live there. "He's never spent a night there," said a spokesman for the singer. "He originally intended to use it as a pied-à-terre when he was in London, but he never moved in."

Briton jailed

A Portuguese court jailed Michael Cook, a mechanic, for 19 years yesterday for the kidnapping and murder of a 10-year-old British girl, Cook, aged 39, of Southend-on-Sea, Essex, has already spent more than a year in jail, since being charged with the killing of Rachel Charles, who disappeared in November 1990. Her body was found after her mother received a £300,000 ransom demand.

Fleeing visit

A British doctor is making a 3,000 mile round trip to see her son for two hours. Penny Cracknell's 13-month-old son Alex was taken by her former lover Ivo Zaharievski — the child's father — on January 22 and flown to Belgrade after the couple split up. Dr Cracknell was granted legal custody and is trying to get Alex back. Dr Zaharievski, a surgeon, has said she can see the child for two hours.

Patient died on trolley

By RICHARD DUCES

A CORONER yesterday called for an internal enquiry at a London hospital after he was told a man died after going unnoticed by casualty staff for almost six hours.

Frederick Seymour, aged 84, who suffered from heart disease was taken by ambulance to the reception desk at King's College Hospital. He sat from 6.35pm until midnight in a wheelchair five feet from the reception desk until a medical student placed him on a trolley.

The Southwark coroner, Sir Montague Levine, was told that Mr Seymour was given a detailed examination three hours later and died at 7.30am, still on the trolley.

Dr Edward Clucksmann, the consultant in charge of the hospital casualty department, said the lack of communication in the case had been "exceptional" but with ward closures and staff shortages it was not unusual for patients to wait on trolleys.

Sir Montague recorded a verdict of death by natural causes. He said: "There is an urgent need for an internal enquiry and reassessment of staffing and communications systems."

Cabinet dispute shelves rail privatisation sell-off plan

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government's timetable for unveiling its plans to sell off British Rail has been disrupted by a cabinet rift, and publication is likely to be delayed until after the election.

In his first public admission that the Conservatives' biggest and most contentious outstanding privatisation has run into difficulties, John Major said last night that he could not be certain that the long-awaited white paper would appear before polling day. Mr Major's cabinet's charter, published in July, stated: "We expect to set out our detailed plans in a white paper later this year."

Mr Major emphasised at the Conservative party press conference the complexity of the task before the cabinet, and the need to get social and safety aspects right before declaring his hand. He said: "There is a great deal to be worked out before the privatisation white paper is ready. It may be ready this side of the election. I cannot be absolutely sure. If it isn't, the principal points will be in the manifesto."

Mr Major made no reference to the role of Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, in the deadlock over the sell-off. Mr Rifkind's strongly

preferred option is for a sale of InterCity as a going concern to lead the return to the private sector. This has brought him into conflict with Mr Major, who wants to see a revival of the former regional railway companies.

Other senior ministers have suggested that Mr Rifkind has overplayed his hand by briefing the press that agreement is close. One said that ministers would not be pushed into accepting his proposals.

Mr Major's comments came after Downing Street sources indicated that the cabinet consideration of the terms of the disposal had been held up by new questions over the fate of valuable land, track and station assets, and over the type of regulatory body that would be created to supervise a passenger operation. Officials were still trying to sort out what Mr Major called "many technical things."

The latest line from Downing Street is in marked contrast to the bullish line taken as long ago as last July, when the cabinet's charter was released. Subsequent briefings, particularly from the transport department, have suggested that, although the

deadline had been put back to early this year, ministers remained on course to publish their proposals in good time for polling day.

In recent weeks, as some senior Tory MPs have questioned the wisdom of handing Labour potentially valuable election ammunition, Downing Street sources have been gradually backing away from this commitment.

John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, said in a BBC radio interview yesterday that ministers were split in every direction over the future of BR. He said: "This Government had an ideological obsession that it must be privatised — didn't know how to do it, didn't know if it would make it any better, but it was the only answer they had for our railway crisis."

Abortion groups decry Irish ruling

The judgment stopping a young rape victim having an abortion is disastrous, women's groups say. Richard Ford reports

WOMEN'S groups in Britain predicted that one effect of the Irish High Court ruling yesterday preventing a rape victim aged 14 from having an abortion would result in women from the republic seeking help at a later stage in their pregnancies.

They suggested that the judgment would increase fear and anxiety among women, making them delay seeking advice and abortions.

Tara Kaufmann, a spokeswoman for the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS), said: "This is an absolutely disastrous ruling for the 14-year-old girl and for any woman who has been raped in the Irish republic. We think it will make women delay seeking help at a time when they need it most."

Official statistics show that 2,065 women from the Irish republic and 918 from Northern Ireland had abortions in England and Wales in the first six months of last year. Women's organisations in the South believe the real figure is much higher.

About 25 women a week from Ireland seek help at the BPAS offices in Victoria, cen-

tral London. They usually arrive on a Friday to receive counselling, are given an abortion the following day and return home on Sunday.

Mary arrive in Britain "short of money and without the support of friends or family. As it is illegal to sell or distribute magazines containing information about abortion in the republic, women wanting abortions are reliant on information from an underground network of private telephone numbers. Some seek help on abortion in Northern Ireland where, although abortion is illegal, advertising advice about British services is allowed."

Anne Rossiter, a member of the London-based Irish Women's Abortion Support Group, said: "The judgment will make women more fearful but it will not stem the tide coming to Britain."

A spokesman for the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child accused pro-abortionists in the republic of exploiting the 14-year-old victim and her case in order to change the constitution.

Resignation call, page 1

Killer went on 'orgy of violence'

A DOUBLE murderer who tried to shoot police storming his flat was jailed for life yesterday, with a recommendation that he serve at least 18 years.

The Central Criminal Court had been told that Thomas Cook, aged 29, had gone on a ten-day "hideous orgy" of drunken violence in February last year.

The court was told he battered Christopher Jabelman, aged 59, to death in a dispute over a £25 benefit giro, made love to his girl friend at Mr Jabelman's home in Finner, northwest London, while the dead man's body lay near by, broke into a house and stole two pistols, shot and killed Mrs Pauline Russell, aged 40, a neighbour, and shot her husband in the arms. He also pulled the trigger of one gun when police raided his home, but it misfired.

Cook, of Finner, was appearing for sentence after pleading guilty last month to the two murders, to attempting to murder Christopher Russell, aged 35, robbery, burglary, and making use of a firearm with intent to resist arrest.

Judge Brian Smedley, QC, said: "Cook's callousness was quite appalling."

Conspiracy to defraud by City advisers was not committed for personal gain, judge says

Blue Arrow four given suspended prison sentences

BY BILL FROST

SUSPENDED prison sentences were yesterday imposed on four former City advisers to the Blue Arrow employment agency for conspiring to rig the stock market. The convictions bring to an end an Old Bailey trial that has cost an estimated £35 million and lasted for more than a year.

Before passing sentence, Mr Justice McKinnon commented sharply on the length of the hearing. "There must be some other way of dealing with cases of this kind. No jury, no defendant, no family and no judge should ever have to face what we have had to face."

Many lessons on presentation of evidence would have to be learnt from the Blue Arrow hearing if trial by jury for such cases was to survive. If his words were heeded, they would be "worth their weight in gold", the judge said.

Three of the four conspirators were given 18-month prison sentences, suspended for two years. They were Jonathan Cohen, aged 48, deputy chief executive of NatWest Investment Bank and chief executive of County NatWest, David Reed, aged 44, former executive director and managing director of corporate finance at County NatWest, and Nicholas Wells, aged 37, former County NatWest executive director and former member of the corporate advisory department. Martin Gibbs, aged 62, was given a 12-month term suspended for two years. He is a former director of UBS Phillips and Drew.

An Old Bailey jury found the four guilty last Friday of conspiracy to defraud. The court had been told how the City advisers had deliberately misled the market at the time of Blue Arrow's record £837 million rights issue in September 1987 to fund the takeover of Manpower, a larger American employment company. The couple

ators concealed vital information that showed the rights issue had been a failure. They secretly bought millions of shares to give the impression of success. However, prices slumped after the stock market crash in October 1987 and the investment had to be accounted for.

Mr Justice McKinnon told the court that the four men had committed the offence under entirely exceptional circumstances. "It can only be regarded as a one-off offence committed in a situation involving great personal pressure, certainly over-enthusiasm. It was not intended anyone would suffer loss, and certainly part of the reason for the decision was to help Blue Arrow and existing shareholders and not just the defendants' own companies and employees," he said.

The conspirators took no steps to conceal or disguise their actions and the offence had not been committed for personal gain. Not one of the defendants had made one penny from the transaction.

The judge said he would not be making any order against the defendants for costs. Nor would he disqualify them from being directors

in the future, or from running companies. The maximum penalty for conspiracy to defraud is seven years.

After the hearing, Reed and Cohen said that they would be appealing against both sentence and conviction.

John Hume, a solicitor speaking on behalf of Reed, said: "We all share the views stated by the judge in passing sentence. In future, the manner and conduct of any similar trial must be very carefully considered by the prosecution to ensure what has happened is never repeated."

Cohen said: "I recognise that the jury reached a certain conclusion. There are many things I would like to say about the trial. But I have been advised that as we are to appeal it would not be appropriate to make these comments."



Trial's end: relief for Martin Gibbs, who received a 12-month suspended sentence, and his wife, Elizabeth

Chairman of the Bar joins chorus for reform

With the end of a trial costing £35 million, pressure for change should ensure a radical overhaul of how complicated fraud cases are investigated and heard, says Frances Gibb

THE chairman of the Bar yesterday joined the mounting clamour for reform of long fraud trials as the most expensive criminal trial in Britain ended.

Gareth Williams, QC, said that any reform should retain the use of juries, a point made last week by the Lord Chancellor and Barbara Mills, QC, director of the Serious Fraud Office and recently appointed as the next director of public prosecutions.

Mr Williams, who has set up a working party to propose reforms to the way the legal system tackles white-collar crime, called for simplified fraud trials, with fewer defendants and fewer charges.

He also suggested that cases such as Blue Arrow might be considered as civil offences and large companies and their employees could receive huge financial

penalties. A body such as the US Securities Exchange Commission, having a lesser standard of proof than in criminal trials, might be set up to deal with regulatory breaches, the Bar chairman proposed.

"There is an argument to distinguish between cases where someone has had their hand in the till, which is clearly a crime, and another area of transgression which is a breach of the regulatory rules."

Such a commission would also have power to disqualify individuals from acting on the stock market, he said.

The comments yesterday of Mr Justice McKinnon as he imposed suspended sentences in the Blue Arrow trial, coming only days after similar remarks by Mr Justice Henry, are likely to ensure a radical overhaul of how such trials are handled, despite the Roskill inquiry in 1986.

After halting the second Guinness trial last week, Mr Justice Henry said: "We must find a cheaper and quicker way to deal with serious fraud trials." It was likely, he added, that a solution would have to be radical rather than "just mere tinkering".

The job of putting forward reform, which has been urged by all senior members of the legal profession, including the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, is likely to be handled by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

The commission, under Lord Runciman, has already asked Professor Michael Levi at the University of Wales, Cardiff, for a study of the investigation, prosecution and trial of serious fraud cases.

As at the time of the Roskill committee on fraud, there are already two views emerging on the shape that reform should take. The first, held by some judges and the Department of Trade and Industry, wants to abolish juries and instead have a judge, with lay assessors, for long fraud trials.

The second, held by such as the Lord Chancellor, the Attorney-General, the director of the SFO, and the Bar chairman, favours retaining juries, and, in some cases, calls for a far more interventionist role for the judge.

While the judges are hitting out at the system's failings in dealing with complex fraud, others are privately blaming the judges for not making better use of the pre-trial or preparatory hearings in such cases to refine the issues and deal with all points of law.

"Judges are not making these hearings as effective as they could do or as was originally intended," one lawyer said yesterday. "Nor are they being firm enough in controlling speeches, so that less time is wasted on oral argument."

Barbara Mills is one of those known to favour better use of preparatory hearings as well as far more pre-trial disclosure and more emphasis on written argument so that there is far less time spent on arguing legal points in court. In the Blue Arrow trial, about 35 days out of 184 were spent on legal argument.

Maxwell killed himself, aide says

BY JOHN YOUNG

ROBERT Maxwell committed suicide because he could not face the ignominy of being torn to pieces by "the wolves of the City and the wolves in the press", Nick Davies, former foreign editor of the *Daily Mirror*, said yesterday.

Mr Davies, who was dismissed after allegations that he had been involved in arms dealing, described Maxwell as a lonely old man whose entire power base was going to be ripped away from him. He had tried everything in his power to keep his empire afloat, but he had failed.

"More than likely he realised that he would probably be put in the dock and jailed, and he couldn't take that," Mr Davies said in an interview on BBC Radio 4. Here was a man who had bestrode the world, was a friend of politicians and prime ministers, and to whom people came literally at his beck and call, and he could not face the consequences.

Although he had friends in high places, he found himself alone in his ivory tower, Maxwell House, telephoning people out of boredom and sitting on his bed pressing all the switches on the television set. He would never go out, because he expected people to come to him.

Mr Davies agreed that there had been a problem about a woman with whom he was living, and of whom Maxwell was "rather fond." He said: "We used to have many conversations, if that was the right word, and I was not very popular over that."

He fully believed stories that Maxwell had had his telephone tapped and had had him followed. "That was pressure," Mr Davies strongly denied the allegation by the American author, Seymour Hersh, that he had been involved in arms dealing, or that he had acted as an agent for the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.

Asked if he had ever suspected that Maxwell had set him up, Mr Davies said: "Well, these things are possible, but I doubt it. If he had tried to, he would probably have done it far more successfully."

Cab drivers offer £5,000 reward

BY PAUL WILKINSON

CAB drivers in London have offered a £5,000 reward in the search for the men who raped two women in their black cabs in separate incidents over the weekend. They fear that their hard-won reputation for safety is being threatened by rogue operators in unlicensed vehicles.

The money has been put up by the Joint Radio Taxi Association, which speaks for 4,300 of the capital's 21,000 licensed cabbies. Ian Simons, the association spokesman, said: "We are very concerned about what has happened. We are utterly convinced it cannot be a licensed driver. It must be someone using either a stolen vehicle or an old one sold off when it no longer met proper standards."

Police are known to be checking the ownership of almost 200 black cabs sold off earlier this month by the receivers of an east London firm which closed in November. Many went to reputable operators, but some were sold to individual cash buyers.

The first attack happened on Friday evening, when a black man armed with a handgun twice raped his passenger at Wood Green, north London. The second attack happened in the early hours of Sunday morning, when a woman took a cab from Oxford Street to Earl's Court.

The white driver attacked her soon after he picked her up. Police are also investigating an attempted rape by a cab driver in Highgate, north London, earlier this month. The 27-year-old woman, who hailed a taxi after 10pm on February 5, managed to escape after a struggle with the man.

Harry Feigen, general secretary of the licensed taxi drivers' association, said: "The cab trade has always had a good reputation, until now. Women must be dead scared to get in our cabs right now. I'd like to say there's absolutely no need to worry, but that won't do much good."

Mr Feigen said women travelling alone should check that their cabbie is licensed. "They can first ask to see the driver's badge, and they must really have a look at it," he said. "They can also see if the vehicle is in good condition. All proper drivers keep their taxis clean at all times and won't generally drive about in a battered cab."

"There must also be a taxi meter in the cab, and the licence number should be in the back compartment and at the rear of the taxi. We're doing all we can to help police with their enquiries. We think we are very close to catching the first rapist."

Universities hope for research brief

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE establishment of an elite tier of research universities came a step closer yesterday with an allocation of student places for 1992-3 which allows some universities to opt out of the expansion in student numbers.

An extra 18,000 places will be funded in the next academic year, more than twice the planned level of expansion. But changes in the distribution of research support will allow some of the most distinguished universities to maintain their funding levels with only small increases in student numbers.

Graeme Davies, chief executive of the Universities Funding Council, said that Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial College, London, would be among those where undergraduate expansion was minimal. Details of the funding allocation will not be published next week, but every university will be guaranteed a budget increase of at least 3 per cent. Additional places have been allocated to those universities recruiting the largest numbers of students from whom they receive only tuition fees.

Vice-chancellors have been concerned that the targeting of government research funds on top-rated departments, combined with pressure to take more undergraduates, will mean that some universities are restricted to teaching only.

Without advocating a formal division into different types of university, Professor Davies said: "Those universities with the greatest strength in research will be able to pursue those interests without having to over-recruit at undergraduate level, because in some ways the two are incompatible."

The funding council's budget of £1,392 million will be 9.2 per cent more than this year. Vice-chancellors welcomed an increase twice the rate of inflation, but added that 1,500 more lecturers would be needed to cope with the expansion envisaged.

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Scientists turn milk into liquid gold

BY KERRY GILL

AT ABOUT £4,000 a litre, milk from a Scottish sheep must be the most costly and sought after in the world. Yesterday it was announced that the German pharmaceutical company Bayer had agreed to pay £10 million for exclusive rights to the milk, which holds out hope for thousands of people who suffer from a genetic disorder.

Tracy, a transgenic sheep, was born after scientists at a small company in Edinburgh injected human genetic material into a fertilised sheep egg. It has resulted in her milk containing a protein known as Alpha-1-Antitrypsin (AAT), normally found in humans.

Some people, including about 20,000 in Britain, are unable to produce the protein, leading to emphysema, the degenerative lung disease, liver failure and cystic fibrosis. The gene controls the production of AAT, which prevents the breakdown of tissue in the lung and curbs the build-up of mucus.

The contract has been won by Pharmaceutical Proteins of Edinburgh, which hopes to produce a flock of transgenic sheep like Tracy. Martyn Breeze, marketing director, said it was clear that Britain led the world in this field of biotechnology.

Ron James, the company's managing director, said: "AAT is an ideal candidate for the application of transgenic production technology. Although it is currently available in the USA as a plasma-derived product, the

quantities that can be produced are limited. Our technology will permit the production of essentially unlimited quantities of AAT, making it possible to administer the product to all of those who will benefit from treatment."

A deficiency of AAT is the most common genetic disorder and affects up to 100,000 people in Europe and North America. According to Bayer, which expressed interest after two major British drug companies turned down an offer to buy Tracy's milk, between 3,000 and 4,000 people in what was West Germany suffered from AAT deficiency. Life for Tracy, Dr Breeze said, was very pleasant as she was fed on the best food with no prospect of ending up on a dinner plate.

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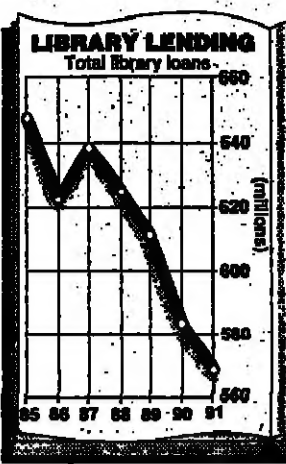
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Libraries worried that cuts endanger off-the-shelf wisdom



PUBLIC libraries are in their worst state since the system was founded almost 150 years ago, the Library Association says. Libraries are closing, reducing opening hours, trimming services and cutting jobs because of dwindling grants from local authorities.

On February 27 the association is staging Save Our Libraries Day, when the main political parties will be challenged to say what they would do about the libraries' difficulties. Tim Renton, the arts minister, has declined to attend, but Antonio Fraser, Margaret Drabble, Anna Ford, Lord Willis and Joan Bakewell are among those lending their support. Another is Shirley Hughes, a children's au-

Closures, reduced hours and lost jobs are said to have brought the public library service to its lowest ebb. Simon Tait reports on the fight back

thor, with 13 titles on library shelves, borrowed 500,000 times last year. She believes that the decline of libraries puts the quality of the media and our understanding of the outside world at risk. "This campaign is to ask if that is what we really want, and to suggest that we do something about it before it's too late," she said. "By using the libraries from a very early age, children learn to concentrate, they find out about things outside their own experience, and develop interests and

enquiring minds, and it informs how we as adults read newspapers. All this is in danger of being lost." Under the Libraries and Museums Act of 1964 councils must maintain a comprehensive and efficient library service, and the arts minister has a statutory duty to supervise and improve the service. He can force a council to meet its obligation.

In this financial year 11 library branches have closed in Derbyshire, five in Hackney, east London, three in Greenwich, south

London, three in Kirkcaldy, West Yorkshire, two in Manchester and one in Sandwell, West Midlands. More worrying, according to George Cunningham, the Library Association's chief executive, are cuts in opening hours.

In 1974, 229 libraries were open 60 hours a week or more; now only 18 are. The number of books borrowed has fallen from 648 million in 1985 to 568 million last year.

Last June, the Library Association accused Mr Renton of "presiding over a savage decline" in the service, and threatened to take him to court to answer for an alleged breach of his statutory duty.

Mr Renton has shown that he is

prepared to use his power. "Libraries should not bear a disproportionate share of any cuts, and there is no evidence that any local authority is in breach of its statutory responsibilities, with one exception," his spokesman said.

The exception is Derbyshire, where 11 libraries were closed in October 1990. Mr Renton let his displeasure be known and an independent local enquiry was set up, which reported in December.

It said that eight of the libraries should not have closed, and a ninth, in the Derby suburb of Littleover, should be replaced with a bigger one. Mr Renton has asked the Derbyshire authorities when the report is to be imple-

mented and, if not satisfied, he is prepared to order the authority to implement it.

Local authorities are being squeezed. Manchester needs to save £45 million this year to avoid poll tax capping. Its theatre and library service has had grant cuts of £1.2 million and £500,000 in the past two years and has closed two branches in this financial year. Manchester Central Library now closes every Thursday.

Liz Pheasant, deputy director in charge of Manchester's libraries, said: "This is a great sadness to us, but we have been one step ahead of other authorities in the area who are facing their problems now. Next year it will be their turn."

Vital scientific facts about stains on murdered girl's clothing not disclosed, appeal judges told

Proof of innocence 'hidden from trial'

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A MAN has spent nearly 16 years in prison for the murder of a schoolgirl which he could not have committed, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Scientific evidence "pointed irresistibly" to the innocence of Stefan Kiszko, a former Inland Revenue clerk, because he was incapable of producing the sperm which was found on the girl's clothing. The evidence was available at the time of the original trial but was not disclosed.

The victim, Lesley Molseed, aged 11, disappeared from her home in Rochdale in October 1975 and her body was found on nearby moors at Windy Hill. She had been abducted and stabbed to death while on an errand. Kiszko, aged 40, who is of

Yugoslav extraction, was convicted at Leeds crown court in July 1976 and an appeal was rejected two years later.

But his case was referred back to the Court of Appeal by the Home Secretary after a campaign by Mr Kiszko's mother and Justice, the organisation which investigates miscarriages of justice. Mr Kiszko, a single man, is being held for treatment for schizophrenia brought on by his ordeal at Prestwick Hospital, Manchester, to where he was bailed by the court last December pending appeal.

Lesley's father, Fred Anderson, and her mother, April Molseed, who has remarried, were in court. Lesley's married sister, Julie Crabbe, was also there. Mr Kiszko's counsel, Stephen Sedley, QC, told

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice: "We acknowledge the family's pain in having to listen to some of the details surrounding their daughter's death and the new pain of learning that her killer has not, after all, been caught. They would not wish an innocent man to be convicted of this killing."

He added: "The verdict of guilty returned on the evidence could not in all probability have been obtained if new medical evidence had been before the court at the time of the trial. If the prosecution had had it, the prosecution would not have been proceeded with."

David (now Lord) Waddington, the former home secretary, was Mr Kiszko's barrister and had put forward an alternative defence that if Mr Kiszko had committed the murder it was with diminished responsibility.

But the court was told yesterday that an enquiry by West Yorkshire police revealed that because Mr Kiszko was "constitutionally infertile" he could not have been the source of seminal staining on the victim's clothing. Mr Sedley said: "He could not have been the killer for all practical purposes."

Scientific witnesses told the court that Mr Kiszko could not produce sperm but Mr Sedley said it was for the court to say whether this evidence was cogent enough to render the conviction unsafe and unsatisfactory.

"This is not simply a case of a lurking doubt," he said. "It is a case, we would submit, in which Mr Kiszko can now establish his innocence." Scientific evidence to this effect had been available at the time of the trial and police were investigating the fact that it was not disclosed to the defence. Two slides taken from scientific examination of Lesley's clothing had also disappeared.

Mr Kiszko's mental condition had deteriorated in prison and he had been transferred during his sentence to a top security psychiatric hospital. He would remain under treatment until doctors felt able to release him. Mr Sedley said he would not criticise the conduct of Mr Kiszko's counsel, Lord Waddington, during the trial.

Asked by Lord Lane whether Mr Kiszko had ever been able to produce sperm, Dr Paul Belchets, a consultant at Leeds Infirmary, confirmed that he had not.

A final medical witness will be called today after which Lord Lane, Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Potts are expected to give their judgment.



Stefan Kiszko with mother Charlotte, left, Lesley Molseed, top right, and sister Julie, below right



Ewing: 'Queues' to send waste to Scotland'

SNP drive to combat 'nuclear laundry'

BY KERRY GILL

THE Scottish National Party yesterday launched its campaign for a nuclear free Scotland with a warning that the country was in danger of becoming an "international nuclear laundry".

Alex Neil, in charge of the SNP's publicity, joined Margaret Ewing, MP for Moray, and Dick Douglas, MP for Dumfriesshire, to unveil a poster to be displayed on sites between central Scotland and the north along the route taken by nuclear waste convoys as they travel to Dounreay on the northern coast. The poster says: "Every day 520 English MPs dump on Scotland - including nuclear waste."

Mrs Ewing, the party's parliamentary leader, said that Westminster was trying to turn Scotland into a dumping ground for nuclear waste and nuclear weapons. "Last week's news that a German government working party is considering the Dounreay disposal solution for 3,000 spent nuclear fuel rods only serves to emphasise that we will be turned into the nuclear dump of Europe unless Scots vote for independence now at the coming election," she said.

Foreign countries were queuing up to send waste to the north of Scotland for storage and reprocessing and the Dounreay management was touting around the world "for contracts as an international nuclear laundry".

The nationalists claim that jobs in industries such as fishing and tourism depended on the perception that Scotland enjoyed a clean environment. Even the threat of a nuclear accident put that employment at risk, she said.

Mr Douglas, the SNP's defence spokesman, said Labour was frightened to draw attention to its policy of placing Trident submarines on the Clyde. "There is no majority in Scotland for these nuclear weapons."

Parents expect retreat by governors

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

PARENTS at Stratford school, east London, believe that the group of governors opposing the head teacher is in retreat and that the dispute over the school's management will end soon, the chairman of the parent-teacher association said yesterday.

Anthony Scivetti, chairman of the new association, said that he was furious at revelations in *The Times* yesterday that a group of prospective governors planned to award themselves high salaries after the school opted out of local authority control. It's hard to imagine people would behave in this way," he said.

The association is writing to all parents during the half term break this week, inviting them to attend a meeting at the school on March 2. The association will reiterate its call for the resignation of four governors who are opposed to the head teacher Anne Snelling.

Mr Scivetti said that parents supported Mrs Snelling and were optimistic that the dispute would be resolved soon.

The National Association of Head Teachers, which intends to sue two of the governors over their allegations that Mrs Snelling slapped one of them, will hold a press conference today explaining the grounds for its action.

Leading article, page 13

Sale bares secret lives of soldiers

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE defence ministry is to investigate how intimate details of servicemen's private lives were left in a surplus army filing cabinet. Gordon Chamberlain, a former paratrooper who bought the cabinet in a job lot, was interviewed by ministry police yesterday.

"The ministry says the documents were not classified; they were an index of other documents which contained information taken in confidence."

Mr Chamberlain says that allegations of sexual indiscretions and behavioural patterns among about 400 men and women serving with the Intelligence Corps and the Royal Corps of Signals in Cyprus in the mid-1980s were included in the 250-page index.

The ministry confirmed that personal information had been included in the documents which should have remained confidential.

Mr Chamberlain, aged 60, from Taunton, Somerset, said the documents named officers who were alleged to be alcoholics, had used drugs, employed prostitutes, had homosexual affairs and had

learnings towards fascism and communism.

Headed "Cyprus Review, May 1984 - October 1986", the documents referred to a corporal who smoked cannabis and a warrant officer who indulged in group sex.

A corporal from the Women's Royal Army Corps was also described as being man-mad. A soldier and a high ranking officer's wife were both noted down as illegitimate and a member of the Corps of Signals was reported to be "in possession of women's clothing".

Revelations of sexual impropriety and alcohol abuse in Cyprus were made in 1984 during an investigation into espionage allegations against eight members of 9 Signal Regiment, serving at a base near Ayios Nikolaos on the island. The eight men were all acquitted on charges under the Official Secrets Act, after a 107-day trial at the Old Bailey.

The Security Commission, which examined the background to the case, recommended that the defence ministry avoid posting young servicemen to such sensitive locations.

Keays behaved as 'woman scorned'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SARA Keays yesterday heard herself described during her High Court libel action as a vengeful "woman scorned". She sat at the front of Court 13 at Downing Street, QC, for the defence, quoted the restoration playwright William Congreve: "Heaven has no rage, like love to hatred turn'd, Nor Hell a fury, like a woman scorn'd."

Miss Keays, aged 44, whose 11-year affair with Cecil Parkinson ended in scandal in 1983, is suing *New Woman* magazine over an article which she claims portrayed her as a kiss-and-tell bimbo who wrote her book, *A Question of Judgement*, to make money and cause maximum damage to her former lover's reputation.

On the 11th day of the action, Mr Browne said she had "bitterly resented" Mr Parkinson staying in office after he issued a statement about their affair in 1983 when she was pregnant with their daughter Flora, now eight.

When she made a statement later that year - which led to Mr Parkinson's resignation as trade and industry secretary - she described her husband as a vengeful and a woman scorned. It was then

that Mr Browne quoted from Congreve's *The Mourning Bride*, written in 1697. Mr Browne told the jury: "It was hardly surprising, was it, that people spoke of her being vengeful. It was inevitable."

She had gone ahead with the statement at the time of the Conservative party conference, despite warnings about its effect, without allowing "the consequences for Cecil Parkinson to stand in her way". It was the plainest possible evidence of her "self centred nature". By issuing that statement she destroyed her own reputation and lost public sympathy.

The magazine says that the article did not mean she was a bimbo, but that she did write a book with money as one incentive and deliberately tried to embarrass Mr Parkinson and the Tory party.

Mr Browne later used a quote from *Hamlet*: "The lady doth protest too much" and said: "That is exactly the situation here. Sara Keays starts off with so much cause for sympathy, but by her own actions she alienates it and becomes the destroyer of her own reputation. That is the tragedy of Sara Keays. The lady doth protest too much and in doing so forfeits any right to claim damages at your hands."

Today, Miss Keays's counsel will make his final address.

Luggage thief stole £300,000

A thief who posed as a wealthy passenger to steal property worth £300,000 from Heathrow airport luggage was jailed for three years yesterday. Geoffrey Senior, aged 21, an unemployed and homeless man, snatched expensive-looking suitcases from the baggage carousel in a domestic flight terminal, Iselworth crown court, west London, was told.

Dressed in a smart suit, he watched the carousel from a balcony then took the suitcases when few other people were around. He obtained the £300,000 worth of cash and valuables in a year.

By selling the valuables he gained a net total haul of £150,000 and spent it on food, clothing and expensive hotels. In one suitcase he found £7,000 in notes, the court was told. His luck ran out when a policeman saw him with an airport trolley piled high with luggage.

Meat firm fire

Animal rights activists admitted responsibility for setting fire to four refrigerated lorries belonging to a Nottingham meat importing and processing company. Damage estimated at £100,000 was caused.

Woman raider

A woman attacked a male driver with a cash and stole £5 from his pocket, near Ford open prison, West Sussex. She was standing by a car with a flat tyre and flagged the driver down.

Cell rescues

Twenty remand prisoners at Highbury Corner magistrates' court, north London, had to be rescued from their cells when fire broke out.

Churchill suit

One of Winston Churchill's grey pinstripe suits is expected to make up to £1,500 at Christie's South Kensington on April 3. The label has his name and the date.

War echoes

A unexploded shell from the first world war has been made safe by an army bomb disposal squad after it was found in a cottage outhouse in Burton, Cumbria.

Dawn arrests

Fourteen people were arrested in dawn raids in Kempton, Bedfordshire, by police investigating burglaries in the area. Property valued at £10,000 was recovered.

Child escapes

Two men in an Austin Metro car with teddy bear stickers on the window tried to abduct a girl aged seven in a Coventry street. She struggled free and the men drove off.

Green matches

Bryant and May is selling its first environmentally friendly matches from this week.

Earthquake hits England but it's no great shakes

Nick Nuttall finds that Britain's earth tremors have never been highly rated

RESIDENTS of Peterborough were shaken from their sleep around 1.23am yesterday by a deep rumbling and a whooshing sound as an earthquake struck, triggering alerts up to 20 miles away - only nine months after the first meteorite to strike Britain for 22 years thundered into a garden near the city, narrowly missing a retired civil servant who was tending his onions.

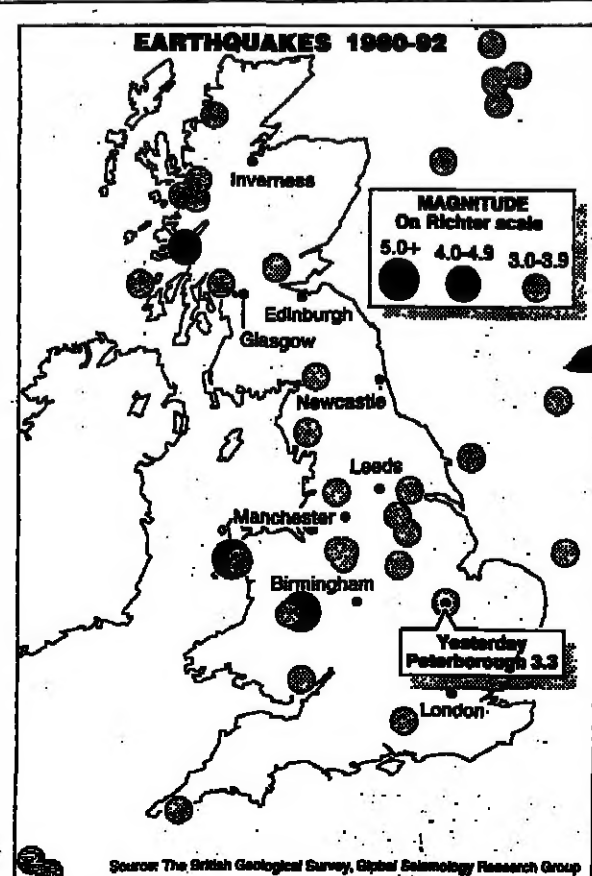
The tremor, estimated as measuring 3.3 on the Richter scale, startled residents in a part of the country which has been fairly free of natural calamities. The last earthquake to hit the region directly was in 1750; it was estimated to have registered 4 on the Richter scale, according to Alice Walker of the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh.

Britain's highest known reading was in 1984 when a

Gutierrez, who lives in the Bretton area, said: "It approached from the north and it was like a slow train coming, making a rumbling noise increasing in intensity. I felt the bed lift, the floor shook and the rafters creaked, but then it went away as quickly as it came."

Geoff Ridgeway, Peterborough's mayor, took comfort in the city's stoic motto, Upon This Rock. "People have been startled and frightened but the main thing is that there has been no damage," Mr Ridgeway, a retired chartered engineer, said.

Martin Howe, the city's museum curator, said that if the city was built on a rock, it was only a spiritual one. "It is actually on two geological faults, the Tinwald Marham and the Peterborough fault, which can cause the land to lift and crack."



Source: The British Geological Survey, Digital Seismology Research Group

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HIV victims win payout as health tops election agenda

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH was pushed to the top of the electioneering agenda yesterday by all three main parties as the government announced £12 million compensation for people infected with the HIV virus as a result of blood transfusions and tissue transplants.

Seventy-four people, their infected spouses and children will get payments up to a maximum of £80,500 under what was seen as a government U-turn. In a Commons written answer William Waldegrave, the health secretary, said he had not accepted the argument for a general scheme of no-fault compensation, but had made a special case for HIV.

In 1990 John Major announced a £42 million scheme to help haemophiliacs infected with HIV through blood products. In recent weeks, however, health ministers have still insisted that the scheme would not be widened to non-haemophiliacs infected in the same way.

The payments, to be decided after ensuring that infection took place after treatment in the UK will be

£41,500 for each infant, £43,500 for each single adult, £52,000 for each married adult without dependent children, £80,500 for each infected person with dependent children, £23,500 for each adult infected spouse or partner of the blood or tissue recipient, £23,500 for each infected child who is married, and £21,500 for each unmarried infected child.

Labour yesterday produced a file of patients who had been forced to pay for operations, while the Liberal Democrats published their own health manifesto pledging, but not costing, a raft of expensive initiatives.

The Liberal Democrat proposals include raising NHS spending to cover health service growth, freezing and gradually reducing prescription costs and other health charges, improving health service pay, repairing capital stock, boosting health promotion and reforming medical training.

Paddy Ashdown, the party leader said the proposals had been costed but the figures would not be disclosed until

after the Budget on March 10. Charles Kennedy, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman, denied that the spending pledges would result in higher taxes, and pointed to areas in the NHS, such as administration, where money could be saved. Mr Kennedy said the party would build on the best parts of the government reforms by devolving management to hospital level.

Policy on dismantling the internal market is confused. A Liberal Democrat government would abolish GP fund-holding and NHS trusts, and strip commercialism from the market, says the document.

Mr Kennedy admitted that the 57 first-wave trusts would be able to retain some of their new freedoms, which would be extended later to all hospitals. Although trusts will lose their independent status and will not be able to sell their assets or set their own pay rates, they will be able to borrow from the private sector and run their own affairs with their own management boards.

Virginia Bottomley, the

health minister described Liberal Democrat health policy as "as a masterpiece of muddled thinking", which had ducked the key issue of where the money was coming from.

Labour unveiled a poster of a youthful William Waldegrave, the health secretary, gowned and masked and wielding a surgeon's scalpel, beside the words: "Tory health policy - your money or your life."

Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, produced letters "from the victims of privatisation", which he claimed showed that only those who could pay would get treated under the Tories. The letters, from ten patients who paid for their operations, show that all would have had to wait months or years if they had not opted to pay. Mrs Bottomley dismissed Mr Cook's dossier as another "scare story".

Mr Cook welcomed the move to compensate HIV victims but said it could have been made four years ago before so many of those infected had died.



Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, talks to his Portuguese counterpart, Joao de Deus Figueira, before yesterday's European Co-operation meeting in Lisbon. In London MPs called on the European parliament not to delay a free trade zone in the 19 EC and the European Free Trade Association

countries. Concern was expressed about reports that MEPs are seeking to get the agreement for a European economic area referred back to the European Court. Tim Sainsbury, the trade minister, said he hoped the deal allowing freedom of movement for goods, services, capital and people

could come into force by January 1, 1993. "We would not want anything to obstruct this arrangement which is clearly to the benefit of Britain," he said. Joyce Quin, the Labour's trade spokesman, also voiced fears about delays to the single market.

Aid victory, page 16

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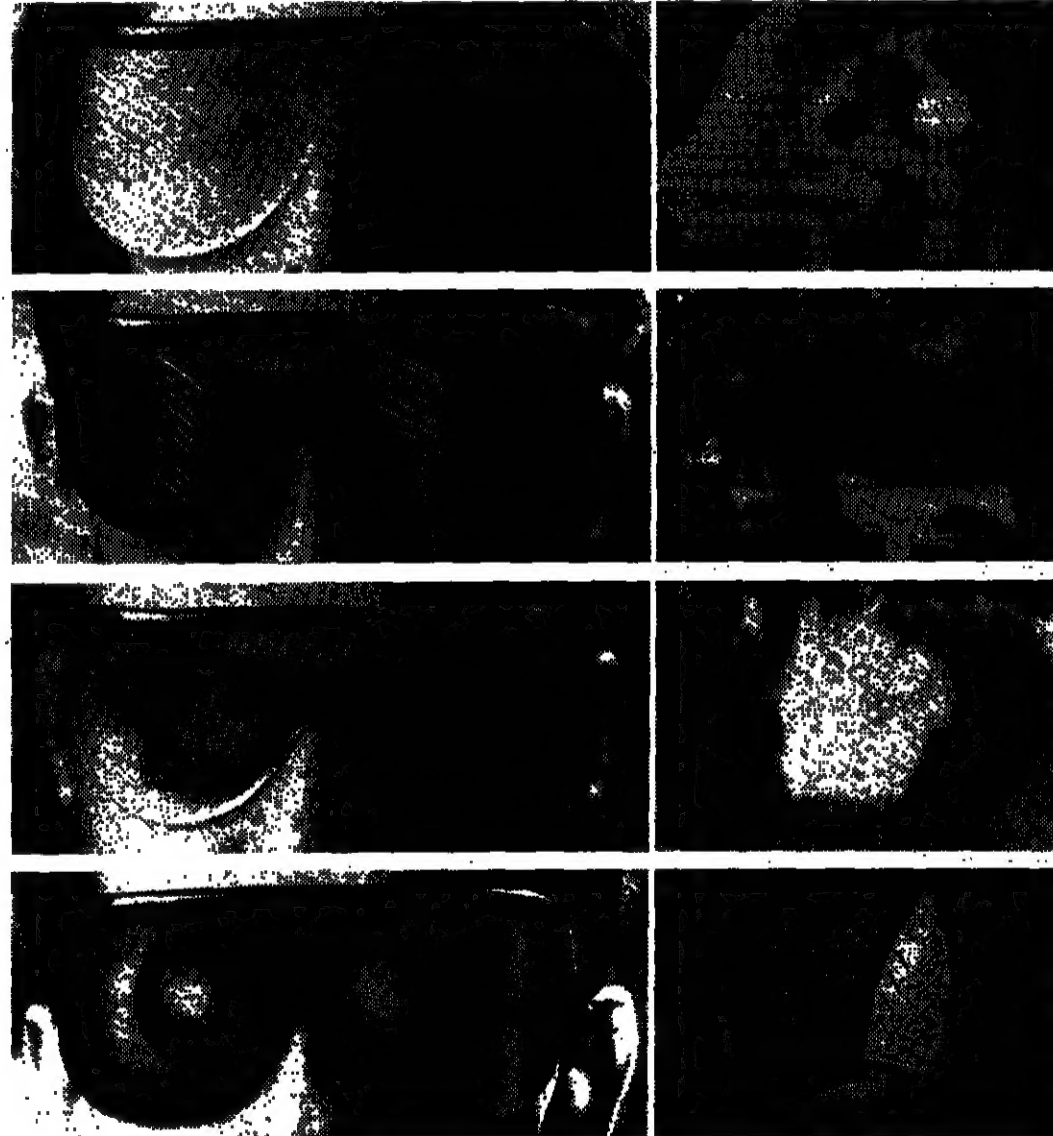
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With all that to consider, imagine how difficult it can be to catch the right bus, cross a street, go shopping, or get on a train to work.

And what if that train or bus is diverted to an unfamiliar place with no prior warning? You can appreciate how unnerving that can be.

To try and moderate many of the problems blind people encounter, Action for Blind People offers advice and training to assist them with tasks that sighted people would regard as commonplace. Like making a cup of tea, operating a washing machine and differentiating between vegetables and meat on a plate, for instance.

At Action for Blind People, our aim is to improve the lives of blind and visually impaired people and enable them to lead a far more independent life. We therefore constantly campaign for better safety precautions and vital facilities in all public places.

We provide information and advice on how to register as a blind person, claim benefits, or even where to go on

holiday. And we also liaise with banks, libraries and leisure centres, who regularly come into contact with blind people, on how to upgrade and improve their services.

If you would like to find out more, or have a blind friend or relative who is in need of any help, don't hesitate to give us a call on 071 732 8771 and ask for Sheila Ditchfield.

We will do our best to take immediate action to alleviate any problems you might have. Naturally, we will do so with the utmost care and understanding.

Remember, even the sighted staff who work for us, have experienced at some time what it is like to be blind.

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Action for Blind People



Hurd gives democracy a boost

An independent foundation is to be set up to help strengthen political parties and other pluralistic democratic institutions in emerging democracies. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, announced in a Commons written reply. It will be known as the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

Mr Hurd said he had consulted the parties represented in the Commons about establishing such a foundation and it had been generally welcomed. The foundation will come into being once all the parties have nominated governors, and will receive £200,000 for the remainder of this financial year and £1 million in 1992-3.

Ban rejected

MPs returned to fox hunting during Commons question time when a call for it to be banned from church-owned land was rejected by Michael Allison, who answers for the Church Commissioners. He said that it was for tenants to decide whether to allow hunts.

Tax burden

Tax relief for the over-60s taking out private health insurance is expected to cost the Exchequer about £60 million this financial year. Francis Maude, the Treasury financial secretary, said in a written reply.

Fair shares

The latest Treasury-Suck Exchange survey shows that more than 11 million people in Britain own shares. John Maules, the Treasury economic secretary, said in a written reply. In 1979 there were fewer than three million shareholders.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: health: prime minister. Debate on government motion on industrial relations.

Lords (2.30): Local Government Finance Bill, report, second day. Charities Bill, report, second day.

Ministers highlight Labour union link

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR remains a prisoner of the trade unions across a swathe of the nation's life, the Conservatives said yesterday as they fielded a team of six ministers to hammer home a central theme of the coming election campaign.

Health, education, local government and industrial relations were cited by ministers as areas where a Labour government would unravel the reforms of the past decade and put its union paymasters back in charge. Their words were illustrated with a new poster reminding voters that 22 shadow cabinet members were union sponsored and using a pair of handcuffs to illustrate the 'links' between Labour and the unions.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said the unions owned Labour "lock, stock and block vote". They controlled 90 per cent of the votes at the annual policy-making conference and 40 per cent of the votes to choose the party leader and parliamentary candidates. "Labour policies are made by the unions, for the unions. Labour's policies for industrial relations, a minimum wage and training have been drawn up by the unions, for the unions."

The policy review committee that had drawn up plans to "wreck" the union law reforms of the 1980s had been heavily influenced by senior officials of unions such as the transport workers, which had vetoed a planned Ford plant for Dundee.

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, told a Conservative Central Office press conference that Gordon Brown, his shadow, had been "bought" by the TUC. He had failed to repudiate its condemnation of inward Japanese investment as "alien".

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said that Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, was in the pocket of the National Union of Teachers. He had followed the NUT line in opposing the review body for teachers' pay. His party's "love affair" with the unions explained why it was determined to abolish choice by scrapping grant-maintained schools, the assisted places scheme, city technology colleges and grammar schools.

Waste pulls its weight

BY JOHN WINDER

THE old canard that parliament produces plenty of hot air and little else was firmly rebutted yesterday with the news that Westminster also amasses between two and four tonnes of waste paper each week.

Lady Blatch, an environment minister, told the House of Lords that the paper was taken away by a contractor, who was given it free of charge in return for removing all other rubbish. This represented good value, she said.

The matter of Westminster waste was raised by Lord Rippon of Hexham, who saw the possibility of a profit and recalled that in 1952 a minis-

ter had sold 28 tonnes of paper, the product of six months' work, for £300.

Another peer, Lord Stoddart of Swindon, suggested that the waste paper was increasing in inverse proportion to the decreased importance of parliament.

Lady Blatch suggested that Lord Stoddart and his Labour colleagues were to blame for some of the waste, because of their demands to see all documents produced. However, she was quick to agree that this was the Labour party's right.

She thought that some blame might attach to the "greatest scourge of modern society, the photocopier".

China clamp on dis

Peking opposes 1 plans

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Repression in rural Tibet

China widens clampdown on dissidents

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

CHINA has launched a "re-education" campaign in rural Tibet in an attempt to crush the independence movement. The crackdown comes as China is trying to improve its human rights image in the West, and the revelation coincides with the arrival in London of a Chinese delegation on human rights.

The campaign — unprecedented in the past ten years of unrest — has been initiated in areas previously assumed to be passive towards the regime. That appears to indicate that the independence movement is more widespread than previously believed, and speaks volumes about the insecurity of the government in Peking after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Only two years ago things were, officially, going swimmingly in the regions. Countless meetings are being held throughout Tibet,

not only in border areas, trying to reinforce the notion that what has happened in the former Soviet Union is only a temporary affair. The campaign has been initiated only through the regional media and came to light through the monitoring of Tibetan television and the *Tibet Daily*, the Communist party's mouthpiece in Lhasa. No mention of the crackdown has been made in Peking in the hope that it would not be noticed in the West.

The nervousness of the government can be seen easily in the detention of an electrician whose case emerged yesterday from information smuggled out of Lhasa. Dorje Wangdu, aged 33, has been sent without trial for three years' re-education through hard labour for merely discussing the possibility of wearing Tibetan national dress for a festival, which is not in itself an offence. He is also accused of giving protective amulets to the monks of Ganden monastery against the background of a campaign against those allegedly co-operating with foreign and hostile elements.

The news of his plight comes as a new report by Asia Watch and the Tibet Information Network shows that there are many more Tibetans in jail for political offences than the Chinese admit — 360 as against 50 convictions for "counter-revolutionary activity" admitted by the Chinese government since 1987. They are, however, only a fraction of the total number of Tibetans detained. Those serving administrative sentences without trial, for instance, are not regarded as convicts.

The mission to Britain is one of a series of visits to Western countries by the Chinese law institute and is led by Wang Jiafu, its director, who is accompanied by two other lawyers and Li Mingde, deputy head of the foreign affairs ministry. The two-week visit takes in a trip to Northern Ireland and, after some resistance from the Home Office, various government institutions, such as prisons. Among the non-governmental organisations to be visited will be Amnesty International.

The British hosts for the trip, the Great Britain-China Centre which is partly government-funded, believe that the lawyers are genuinely searching for new approaches to human rights in China after the barrage of criticism from the West, particularly in the wake of the mass killings of pro-democracy demonstrators in Peking in 1989. Although what the delegation sees and hears in Northern Ireland may later be used in China's defence, it will at least have the advantage of observing at first hand the relative openness in which such matters are discussed in Britain.

"We very much hope they will report on the non-governmental organisations and the institutions which support protection of the individual," an official of the centre said.

Deng speaks up for market economy

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

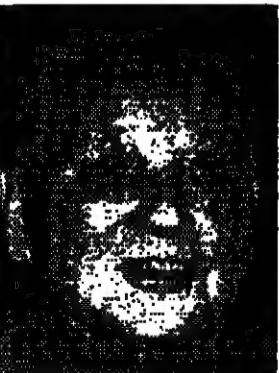
DENG Xiaoping, the senior Chinese leader, has predicted that within the next 20 years Hong Kong's Communist neighbour, Guangdong province, will become Southeast Asia's fifth "little dragon", challenging the economic miracles of Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, and Hong Kong itself.

Mr Deng made the statement during his recent rare tour of southern China. It is believed that the increasingly reclusive 87-year-old leader went south to spread his message that rapid economic liberalisation is the only way for China to survive.

Guangdong, with its booming provincial capital, Canton, and its capitalist-style special economic zone, Shenzhen, is the success story of Mr Deng's policies of economic liberalisation combined with tight control of political dissent.

Mr Deng may also have been making the point that the economic success of the "four little dragons" was achieved in the absence of Western-style democracy.

Twelve years ago, he became the first leader of a



Deng: success story in booming Canton

socialist country to advocate market-orientated economic reform. On his recent tour, he said China must continue along that path for the next hundred years, according to *Wen Wei Po*, a newspaper published in Hong Kong and controlled by Peking.

Mr Deng now holds no official positions, has all but given up public appearances, and says he has handed over the reins of power to younger men such as Jiang Zemin, the party general secretary. But his reforms are believed to be under attack from economic hardliners, and observers say he was prodded into speaking out in public.



Satisfaction: Mick Jagger leaving a Tokyo airport hotel lobby last night after the justice ministry granted him special permission to enter Japan

Japan relents and allows family man, 48, to enter

BY JOE JOSEPH

MICK Jagger, the Rolling Stones singer, waiting all day at Tokyo airport yesterday and was finally allowed into Japan last night when the justice ministry granted him entry to promote his film *Free Jack*. Jagger, aged 48, has been on a Japanese immigration blacklist since being convicted in Britain of possessing marijuana in 1969. He was refused entry to Tokyo in 1973 for the same reason, but was allowed in for solo concerts in 1988 and the 1990 Stones tour.

Jagger did not think he still needed a special entry permit from Japan because of his marijuana days. Before his journey, he had gone to the trouble of enquiring whether he was clear to enter, and had been told he was.

Entry to Japan can be trying even for those foreigners without past drugs convictions. All foreigners must enter through the "aliens" gate at Tokyo's Narita airport and, if they are planning to stay for a while, must have their fingerprints taken.

The Japanese officials who still saw the singer as a threat to morals have not yet grasped that Jagger, father of four, grandfather-to-be, and friend of members of the British royal family, is not the man he was in 1969.

When he was in Tokyo with the Stones in 1990 he was interested not in finding drugs but in finding the best jogging circuit near his hotel. He spent his spare time not tracking down the amphetamines that Japan's *yakuza* gangsters flog to bored housewives, but arranging playmates for his children among the expatriate British community.

Paul McCartney, the singer-songwriter, found out just how seriously Japan takes drugs-related matters when immigration officials arrested him in January 1980 for arriving at Narita airport with half a pound of marijuana in his suitcase. The former Beatle was visiting Japan for a concert tour with his band, Wings. He was held in a police cell for nine days before being deport-

ed. Linda, his wife, said: "People certainly are different out here. They take it so very seriously."

While Jagger was kicking his heels at Tokyo airport he might have consoled himself with the thought that being barred because of a 23-year-old drugs offence would probably not rank as the strangest shock he had ever had in Japan. More remarkable must surely have been the sight of Keith Richards on stage at 6.30pm sharp during the Stones' 1990 tour.

That is the starting time for Tokyo entertainment, from concerts to the late film show. It allows time for everyone to get home afterwards to a suburb two hours' train ride away. The sponsors who put up the cash that lures big names to Japan insist on punctuality. Bands who want to be asked to come again comply. British fans of the Rolling Stones had always assumed that at 6.30pm Richards was just about finishing breakfast.

Philip Howard, page 12

8 Seconds.

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Killing of Sheikh Moussawi leaves peace talks 'down but not out'



Levy: peace talks must leave US

THE fragile Middle East peace process remained intact yesterday, but increasingly remote from realities on the ground as the region braced itself for the inevitability of more violence between Israel and pro-Iranian guerrilla factions in Lebanon.

"The mechanism of the process which began in Madrid has survived, but what little spirit of compromise that existed between the two camps has been further eroded," said one European diplomat. "If the talks were likened to a boxer, he is down but has not yet been counted out."

Even as tens of thousands of mourners were vowing bloodthirsty revenge for the

The latest explosions of violence in the Middle East have weakened what were already meagre hopes for the region, Christopher Walker writes from Cairo

aerial ambush on Sheikh Abbas Moussawi, David Levy, Israel's foreign minister, was telling a Knesset committee that Israel would attend the next round of peace talks in Washington on February 24, but would insist on holding any subsequent negotiations closer to home.

Douglas Hogg, the British foreign office minister specialising in the Middle East, tried to brush aside the obvious dangers the new

era of violence poses to attempts to hold direct Arab-Israeli talks. "We are encouraged very much by the decision of the Syrians to attend the bilaterals," he said, asked about the effects of the Hezbollah leader's assassination.

But the dangers were underlined by the state department in Washington, which took the unusual step of issuing a communiqué on a Sunday in which spokesman Richard Boucher called on

both sides to exercise "maximum restraint". Britain, like France, refused to single out either Israel or the Arabs for blame. A pessimistic note was sounded in Spain, where Francisco Fernández, the foreign minister, said European Community countries had never had much optimism about improvements in the Middle East.

"The little we had is being eroded by reality," he said. Uncertainty surrounded the timing of Sunday's decision by Syria and Lebanon to attend the Washington meeting after boycotting multilateral talks in Moscow. Arab diplomatic circles assumed it was taken before news of the Lebanon ambush circulated, but that it

would remain unaltered. Even before the latest violence began with the axing to death of three Israeli troops on Saturday, an attack claimed by West Bank-based Palestinian radicals and widely supported in the Arab world, announcement of Israeli elections for June 23 had eliminated any hopes of progress of substance in the talks before then.

For many Arabs, the imminence of US presidential elections had also reduced slender hopes that enough US pressure might be imposed on Israel's Likud government to bring action on the formula of land for peace — considered the only way forward for the talks, whatever their venue. "I am

afraid Washington will become another platform for propaganda and little else," a Western official said.

In announcing their willingness to go to Washington, the Palestinians said even before the latest explosion of violence that there was no hope of talks with the Israelis dealing with matters of substance — such as autonomy in the occupied territories — until there was a halt to the building of Jewish settlements.

The chief architect of the peace process, James Baker, the US secretary of state, has always seen a danger of the talks being buffeted by acts of violence in the Middle East. But he has hoped that, even if progress was at a

snail's pace, he and his team could at least keep the two sides talking.

Some officials in the US administration believe that only reminders of the tinderbox state of the region, combined with an Israeli government free to act without the restraint of smaller parties in the Knesset, will ever bring a solution. Other observers think that a viable peace in the Middle East is impossible before another war has taken place.

Arabs and Israelis both remain unwilling at present to be seen as being responsible for terminating the peace process. But on both sides there are hardliners convinced that the talking can be forced to stop by violence.

Shias vow to 'liberate' Jerusalem

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

MORE than 100,000 Muslim mourners yesterday greeted the arrival of the body of Sheikh Abbas Moussawi in Baalbek, the ancient city east of Beirut which has long been the centre for Hezbollah, the fundamentalist Party of God. Gunmen fired machineguns into the air while loudspeakers on the mosque blared readings from the Koran.

Sheikh Moussawi, leader of Hezbollah, was killed on Sunday in an Israeli helicopter attack on his motorcade in southern Lebanon. Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the man most likely to succeed Sheikh Moussawi as head of Hezbollah, told the crowded mosque: "Revenge is not an Islamic concept. Our struggle against Israel has never been out of vengeance. It is a struggle of existence. It is either us or them and we can never coexist together."

He vowed to step up attacks against Israel until Jerusalem was liberated and emphasised that Hezbollah "has been and will always be against the Middle East east peace process and the American initiative to settle the Palestinian question".

The death of Sheikh Moussawi overshadowed the announcements here that Syria and Lebanon would attend the fifth round of peace talks with Israel next week in Washington.

Thousands of Muslims, pounding their chests, shaking their fists and vowing vengeance, marched in the funeral procession in the slums south of Beirut. They carried the coffin and those of his wife and six-year-old son through the narrow winding street before the convoy set off for Baalbek.

Boy scouts waving black, green and red flags, the colours symbolising Shia martyrdom, followed the coffins. Schoolboys carried a huge painting of Sheikh Moussawi as speakers condemned welcomed martyrdom in the name of Islam.

A high-ranking Iranian delegation headed by Ayatollah Jannati, personal envoy of the Iranian spiritual leader

er, Sheikh Ali Khamenei, and joined the mourners. City life came to a standstill as businesses, schools and universities observed a total shutdown in protest against the Israeli attacks.

Nervous bodyguards circled Sheikh Sayyed Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, Hezbollah's supreme mentor, as he knelt lamenting and praying on the coffin. The grey wooden box was draped in a yellow Hezbollah flag and covered with wreaths.

Flanked by Ahmed Jibril, chief of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command and Lebanese ministers Walid Jumblatt, Ali Khatib and Abdullah al-Amin, Sheikh Fadlallah, wearing a black turban and gown, headed the procession.

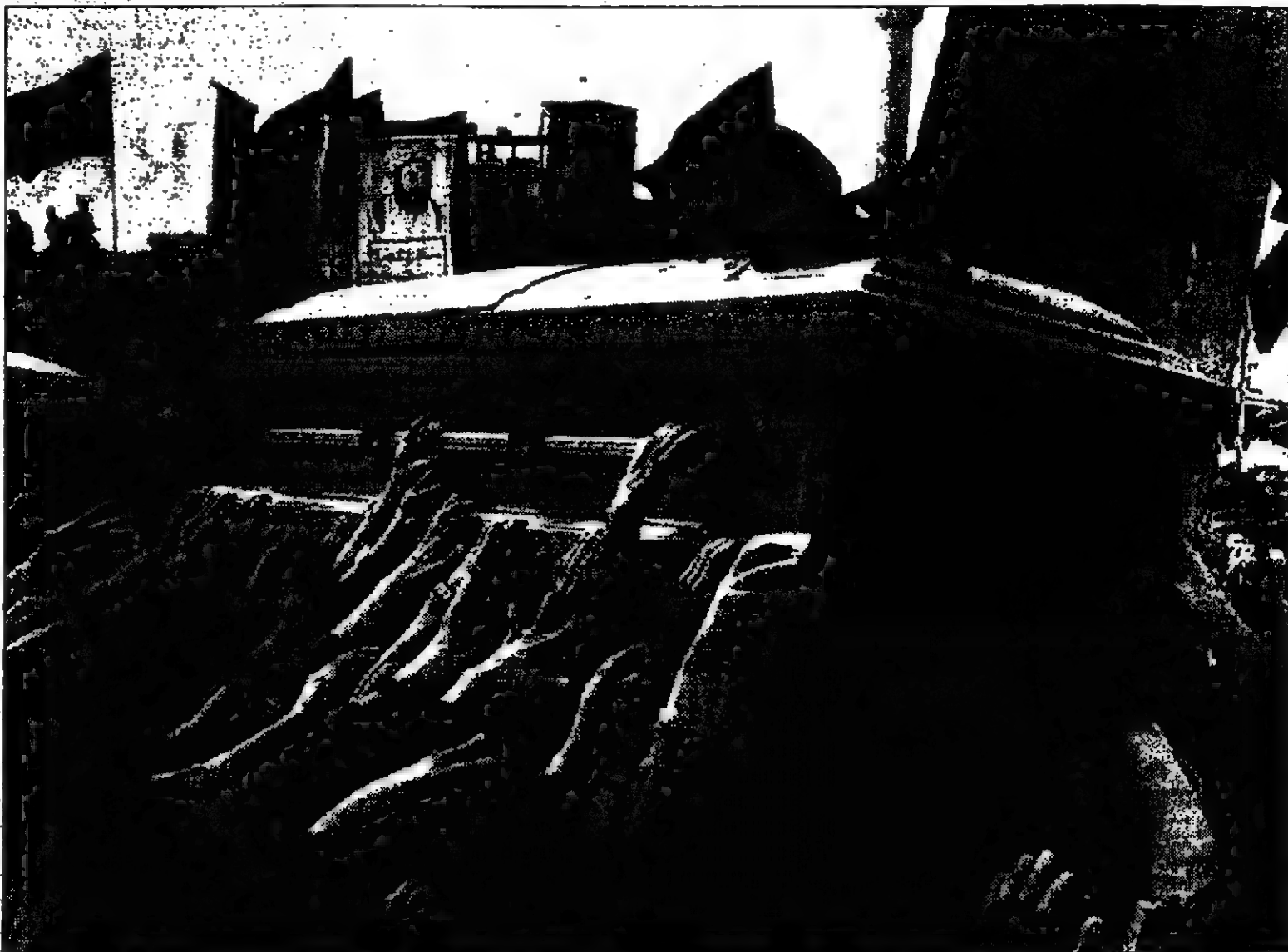
The level of security around him indicated the extent of fear for his life now that confrontation between the fundamentalists and Israel has become an all out war. Many think he is Israel's next target.

Unlike "tools of the Lebanese — political — parties, Hezbollah is not the kind of organization that revolves around its leader. The Party of God is governed by a council of sheikhs in a collective command. Choosing the secretary-general would only be a technical matter, said one fundamentalist official.

But Sheikh Fadlallah remains the overall personality behind the Lebanese fundamentalist movement. His vision and wide political scope has directed Hezbollah since it was founded in 1982.

● Tripoli: The two Libyans accused in the West of blowing up an American airliner will be questioned by a magistrate in private, not at a public hearing, on Tuesday, legal sources said. But they will be shown to reporters (Reuters reports).

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Bearers of grief: weeping Muslim mourners carry the coffins of Sheikh Moussawi and his family through the narrow streets of Beirut

Queen visits Australia as republicans clamour

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen arrives in Sydney today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the country's premier city, aware of a gathering tide of opinion that the nation's figurehead should be a native.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were collected by an Australian aircraft in London yesterday to take them on their first visit to the country since 1988, and the twelfth of the reign. Australia is one of 16 Commonwealth countries and former British dominions that retain the Queen as head of state and is the loudest in its demands to sever that last remaining link.

At a conference on constitutional reform last year, Bob Hawke, who was then prime minister, said that his country's change to an independent republic was inevitable, and that the target date should be 2001, the centenary of the creation of Australia as a unified commonwealth from its various constituent states. Paul Keating, Mr Hawke's successor, has fuelled the debate by saying that it was high time to remove the Union Jack from the national flag.

The Queen and the Duke will spend a week in Australia and will visit Canberra and Adelaide.

Photograph, page 14

Cannibal serial killer gets life

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MILWAUKEE

JEFFREY Dahmer, the American serial killer, was sentenced yesterday to life in prison without parole after telling his judge: "I take all the blame for what I did."

Though Wisconsin has no death penalty, Dahmer, told the judge he really wished he could be put to death for the "holocaust" he created by killing and dismembering 15 boys and young men to fulfil his sexual desires. He also ate parts of his victims.

By sentencing Dahmer to 15 consecutive life terms, Judge Laurence C. Gram of the Milwaukee county circuit court made it impossible for him ever to be eligible for parole. He handed down the sentence after hearing dramatic, in one case hysterical,

pleas from relatives of Dahmer's victims and from the murderer himself.

"Your honor, it is over now," Dahmer told the judge. "This has never been a case of trying to get free. I never wanted freedom. Frankly, I wanted death for myself."

Dahmer, who pleaded guilty to killing 15 young men and boys and was found sane by a jury, told Judge Gram that he has turned to God since his arrest on July 22. "I should have stayed with God," he said in a monotone voice. "I tried and I failed, and created a holocaust."

Speaking publicly for the first time about the killings, he said he hoped God would forgive him, because he knew

that society and the victims' families would not. "I have seen their tears and if I could give my life right now to bring their loved ones back, I would," Dahmer said.

The jury decided on Saturday that Dahmer, aged 31, was sane when he killed 15 young men and boys he had lured to his home. Dahmer had pleaded guilty but insane. The life sentences that Dahmer faced were mandatory. The only thing that was left for Judge Gram to decide was when, or if, the former chocolate factory worker would be eligible for parole, and whether his 15 life sentences would run concurrently or consecutively.

Janet Daly, page 12

Democrats and Republicans step up the campaign pace for crucial first primary in New England

Tsongas makes eyes at voters

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

DRIVERS sound their horns in support for gangs of placard-waving youths at every crossroads. Leaflets pile up beneath every parked car's windscreen wipers. There are posters on every street light, advertisements on every air-wave and badges in every lapel.

Candidates surrounded by scrums of television crews are ubiquitous and in offices, shops and homes throughout New Hampshire the talk is politics. The first and most important primary of America's presidential election reaches its feverish end to-day and, thanks to a single woodchip, Paul Tsongas, on the Democratic side, can expect a famous victory.

The aforesaid chip flew into Mr Tsongas's eye during a factory visit last week and infected it. He was forced to switch from contact lenses to professional spectacles for the final television debate on Sunday night. The funny-looking little Massachusetts man instantly acquired the stature and gravitas he had hitherto lacked and dashed his Democratic rivals' last faint hopes of catching him. "Those glasses are great," said Rick Zinno, watching



Touch and go: Democratic hopefuls Bill Clinton, left, and Bob Kerrey getting the final dabs of make-up before a debate in Goffstown

least of the alternative evils. He revelled in the attacks. This was much better than being "patted on the head," Mr Tsongas said later. Yesterday's polls showed Mr Tsongas leading Bill Clinton by margins of between 7 per cent and 20 per cent.

Mr Clinton, his campaign stalled by charges of draft-dodging and adultery, had complained at the weekend that so much dirt had been thrown his way that he felt

like a "one-man landfill." For the Arkansas governor the debate was a chance to refocus on political issues, but as he ticked off policies in his flat southern monotone one began to feel another scandal might do him more good.

One big unresolved question is whether Mr Kerrey can beat Tom Harkin, a fellow senator, and thus sustain his candidature, but both are nervously watching the "Draft Cuomo" write-in effort that could yet put the New York governor third. Polls give Mr Cuomo 6 to 9 per cent, even though he is not a candidate.

He ensured continued prominence for the "Mario Scenario" on Sunday by saying he would have campaigned in New Hampshire had he been able to resolve New York's budget crisis. When Mr Harkin mentioned Mr Cuomo in the debate, Mr Kerrey groaned.

Buchanan success revives fears of isolationist US

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

TODAY'S New Hampshire primary is about morals and manufacturing issues, marital fidelity and fiscal policy, draft deferments, Desert Storm, whether the American bird should be an eagle or an ostrich, and whether swimming proves recovery from leukaemia.

The attention of America is drawn to these four-yearly rituals as though to a grand fête for ideas. Think about Bill Clinton's behaviour patterns (shared with so many contemporaries); think about the empty shopping malls of Manchester (whose broken shop-fronts are replicated from coast to coast); think about whether Paul Tsongas's successful battle against cancer makes him still ineligible for the highest post.

For the White House, however, there is really only one issue: the fragile coalition of separate interests that keeps George Bush in his job. How will Patrick Buchanan, the Republican challenger, disrupt the president's support, and what must the Bush machine do to keep the upstart at bay? So far it has been a chastening experience for the people in Washington

who want to be assured of keeping office and influence for the next four years.

They lost the first battle when Mr Buchanan decided to stand against the president in the first place. They lost the second by allowing him to build support, virtually unchallenged, until he is now almost certain to fight on beyond New Hampshire. The centrepieces of the Buchanan campaign have been opposition to "big government" and an American withdrawal from the rough-and-tumble of international peacekeeping. Linked to both has been the idea that Americans should be less generous to other people — particularly to the Japanese, but also to the Israelis and the Europeans.

Republicans with long memories recall the struggle in the 1940s between Robert Taft, the isolationist, and Thomas Dewey, the internationalist. Dewey won the battle within his party, but never made it to the White House. Even those with short memories recall the challenge made by Ronald Reagan to President Ford in 1976, an internecine battle which again contributed to Republican

defeat. "The Ford analogy is very much on our minds," a senior Bush campaign aide said last week.

But it seems to have entered senior minds rather late. Everything in this political year has happened late, because of the Gulf war and the delayed start to the campaign. The result has been to benefit those who are boldest and surest on their feet.

The president now has to go to the Southern primaries almost certainly facing continued right-wing challenges.

The president's time in office has done nothing to improve his ability to communicate with voters. Coalition-maintenance is a subtle art. It requires appealing to protectionists and free-traders, isolationists and internationalists, the racially guilty and the racially aggressive. Once a party's internal alliances begin to crumble, it can soon become a dust pile. Ronald Reagan's allies rebuilt the Republicans from the wreckage of Barry Goldwater's massive 1964 defeat. Mr Buchanan is not afraid of another Republican rout if he can help put his party back on his track.

PEOPLE

Madonna 'sex hype' attacked

Cliff Richard has described Madonna as "one of the biggest hypes ever" and "a poor man's Marilyn Monroe". In a radio interview for the BBC, he condemned her for "taking advantage" of her sexuality.

"I could do a nude show now and I would be the big



gest thing that ever happened in Britain," said the 51-year-old singer. He told presenter Mike Read: "I have never met her, of course — she might be the nicest person in the world — but it would be tarnished for me."

"We are all sexual animals, but to me there is more sex in Olivia Newton John, just because she looks good, than any video I've seen of Madonna's." But he added: "I do like some of the records."

Racism, fanaticism and anti-Semitism is on the rise in many nations, according to Elie Wiesel, survivor of the Holocaust and Nobel Peace Prize winner. "It is to me a source of anguish," Mr Wiesel, aged 63, said at a peace prize forum in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Mother Teresa, aged 87, is doing "fairly well" in Salvador Mundi hospital in Rome and her doctor, Vincenzo Bilotta, said he hopes she can return to India soon. He denied reports that the Nobel Peace Prize winner was critically ill.

King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden crashed his car into a fire tree in the Swedish motor rally on but emerged unscathed. The king was driving (not competing) on a special stage of the world championship rally when he drove a four-wheel-drive Mitsubishi off the road on an icy bend near Karlstad.

Grand old man

Philip Howard on Mick Jagger's new role as grandfather

Is there life after grandfatherhood? In certain societies and epochs, men are revered for their grey beards and troops of grandchildren. In Britain, the Victorians preferred to have grand old men with silvery beards as their politicians and stars. China is still run by a gerontocracy. The Supreme Soviet used to consist entirely of granite-faced grandfathers in baggy double-breasted suits. Look what happened when it booted out the grandfathers.

But in the Western world, with its recent cult of youth, although the grandchildren may well be little darlings, their arrival can come as a shock. Few men in Britain today are wholeheartedly sincere in their thanks for the congratulations on the arrival of their first grandchild. When the grandfather in the case is Mick Jagger, it is a severe culture shock. The news that his daughter Jade is to produce Jagger's first grandchild comes as a grotesque thunderbolt.

Jagger was one of the Sixties celebrities who invented the cult of youth. He was the long-haired lou who a generation of middle-aged fathers feared and loathed, while their daughters screamed for him. His songs were immature and rebellious. But now "Brown Sugar" has become "Grey Sugar" and "Street-fighting Man", "Street-fighting Grand".

Those who make their names as boisterous or brilliant youths should die young, like James Dean, or fade away into decent bourgeois obscurity, like Shakespeare. Marilyn Monroe would not be the icon of the century, with a dozen picture books about her published every year, if she had lived to be a grandmother, trying to make a new career in Hollywood horror films. Dylan Thomas and Byron would not have kept their ever-living charm if they had not died in their thirties, before the age of grandfatherhood. Shelley would have become a bore if he had lived to be a granddaddy, and written about Methuselah instead of plangently about Adonais. Nancy Astor got over the problem by stating: "I refuse to admit that I am more than 52, even if that does make my sons illegitimate." Wordsworth stands as an awful warning: the radical young hero-poet who outlived his fiery promises to become an old bore.

We grandfathers are still capable of worthy work. Leonardo painted the Mona Lisa when he was older than Jagger, although he never showed any inclination to a granddaddy's role. Verdi wrote *Falstaff* at an age to be a great-grand-grandfather. At 90, Sophocles was taken to court on grounds of insanity by his children and grandchildren, who were tired of waiting for their inheritance. He read his most mysterious tragedy, *Oedipus at Colonus*, to the Argonauts, and was acquitted.

When he was banished at the weekend from entering Japan because of his drugs conviction of 23 years ago, Jagger still showed signs of the rebellious old image. On that occasion the editor of *The Times* wrote a famous leading article entitled "Who Breaks a Butterfly upon a Wheel?" But yesterday the Japanese justice ministry relented, and let him in. The Japanese have recognised that Jagger has taken the Gladiolus rather than the Byronic road to immortality. He has even been seen consulting about Britain's day of music with the Minister for the Arts, who looks like the nicest sort of grandfather, even though he has not yet achieved that eminent status. *The Times* had better prepare a leader headed "There's Life in the Old Dog Yet". And Jagger can have his fans doing terrible things with their zimmerframes in the aisles with his grandfatherly "Gouty Jack Flash".

We may not comprehend the mind of a serial killer, but that does not mean he is mad, argues Janet Daley

Face to face with evil



Dahmer: out of control or uncontrollable?

defining Jeffrey Dahmer as insane simply on the basis of his acts. If a grotesquely aberrant crime must always be regarded as mad, so relieving its perpetrator of moral responsibility, haven't we dismantled the idea of evil?

Well, you might argue, perhaps we have and what of it? What place has a medieval concept like absolute wickedness in an enlightened society anyway? What should concern us are the causes of abnormality which could lead to a cure, or at least a preventative, for this sort of behaviour. What matters is not blame and punishment so much as ensuring that such things do not happen again. Individuals who carry out truly monstrous acts should be seen as atoms in some mechanistic causal process which propels them into their actions. It becomes our responsibility to examine that process and discover the point at which the chain of inevitability might have been broken.

There are people (many of whom are employed in the social services) who would apply this argument to all forms of crime. For them, joyriding and mugging are simply proof of social deprivation, and violence is caused by economic hopelessness. (Labour politicians are fond of talking about the need "to tackle the root causes" of crime, so shifting the moral responsibility from the delinquent to the government.) No criminal, according to this analysis, is responsible, in the pure, old-fashioned sense, for his own criminality. He is simply a product of social forces, over which he has no control. Guilt

is defined out of existence and the impulse to punish becomes no more than a primitive desire for revenge. But even people who reject this extreme argument tend to fall for the version of it which says of a man like Jeffrey Dahmer that he must be insane.

In the Dahmer trial, the defence called on a small army of psychiatrists to explain precisely the sense in which Dahmer was not responsible, for his behaviour. There are two ways, it seems, in which people can be deprived of free will by insanity. One is that they simply do not understand that what they are doing is wrong. This is known in psychiatric

jargon as a cognitive defect: what is lacking is knowledge of right and wrong. The other is called volitional failing: the accused understands that he was doing wrong but was unable to control his compulsion.

In the first case, a criminal would presumably be quite unworried about being caught or observed (since he sees nothing wrong in what he does) and would, when apprehended, guiltlessly display the derelict of his crimes to the police.

Dahmer, like most serial killers, was not like this. He was skilful and manipulative enough to conceal his progress through 15 victims, all carefully chosen so that their disappearances would be likely to go unnoticed. Not only did he know himself to be doing wrong, but he was sufficiently in control to be calculatedly covert. His "madness" lay, according to the expert witnesses, in his uncontrollable desire to commit this sort

of act. But what is an uncontrollable desire? Could we not say that any urge not resisted was, by definition, uncontrollable? We do not let rapists off because they gave in to desires they may have felt were uncontrollable. Is it just that Dahmer's desires were so out of the ordinary, that we assume that they must have been uncontrollable because otherwise, he could never have brought himself to commit those acts? But those acts were the ones that he desired: they may have been unusual, but to him they were not repulsive, and therefore it did not take uncontrollable desires to overcome any repugnance.

He did what he wanted to do, over and over, masterfully avoiding detection for a long period. As it happened, what he wanted to do was so bizarre that we are led to assume that such things could only be done in the grip of irresistible compulsion. But who is to say whether our own compulsions are more easily resisted than his? Perhaps simply what we are compelled to do is more acceptable, and we are more determined to hold out against our urge to accept fantasies.

Last post for the Red Army?

Russia's forces are facing collapse after 200 years, says Martin Ivens



Central Europe's policeman since 1912: crack Cossack troops strike fear into French lines during the Napoleonic War

It was after Peter the Great's remarkable victory over the Swedish army of Charles XII, the best of the day, at Poltava in 1709, that Russian armies became a constant feature of European war. By 1730 the Russians were at the River Neckar in Germany. Frederick the Great, however, scoffed at the Russians as barbarians. His Prussian military machine, which was the most advanced in Europe, owed beneath the blows of the dogged Russian peasant army, although Frederick won in the end. By the time of the War of the Coalition against revolutionary France, Marshal Suvorov was leading his troops from Italy into the fastnesses of the Alps.

But it was the entry of Tsar Alexander I into Paris ahead of an army which had fought its way across Europe and defeated Na-

poleon that left the indelible impression of Russian military might. "Yve l'Empereur Alexandre", wisely shouted the Parisians as the Austrians of all the Russias marched into the city behind his immensely tall guard of Cossacks. A Russian army of 800,000 men dominated the mainland of Europe in 1814 as overwhelmingly as the Royal Navy ruled the waves.

Alexander claimed he was just a simple soldier, but it was his martial brother Nicholas I, rather than the chattering mystic, who perfected the system of autocracy, secret police and cultural control. "Gentlemen, saddle your horses, there is a revolution in Paris," the Tsar is said to have cried when news of the revolution in France came to Moscow. Palmerston noted that again it was Britain and Russia, the two peripheral

powers of Europe, who alone stood upright. The Tsar's horses rode for Vienna and Budapest. Nicholas dispatched three Russian armies to the aid of another multinational empire, the Habsburgs. He ended the "springtime of nations" in 1848 with a Russian permafrost. The Germans, too, were brought to heel. Diplomatic threats forced the Prussians to abandon dreams of Deutschland, gross or klein.

Yet because Russian autocracy in its 18th and 20th-century forms rested on a backward social and economic structure, it could compete with the West only at times of slow technological innovation, allowing the nation to deploy its huge reserves of manpower. "We cannot deceive ourselves any longer," growled Grand Duke Konstantin Nikolay-

evich amid the disaster of the Crimean war. "We are both weaker and poorer than the first class powers, and furthermore poorer not only in material but also mental resources". Advised by foreign technical experts and equipped with the same muzzle-loaders as other European powers, the Russian army of 1814 was an overwhelming numerical force. During the Crimean war, however, the brave Tsarist soldier was equipped with a flintlock with a range of 200 yards; his enemy had a rifle capable of hitting targets at a thousand yards. The British and French fleets were able to transport their troops from home to the front more quickly than the Tsar could bring his from Moscow. Why? There were no railways south of Moscow, and horse-drawn carts had to plough

through the mud of endless steppe. Thereafter the Russian army struggled to modernise at the same pace as the West. After 1890 it began to catch up. The German general staff demanded an early war against Russia in 1914 for sound strategic reasons. As the Russians extended their railway network westwards, so their millions could be launched against Germany.

Stalin and his communist successors were able to keep up with the West through enormous expenditure of blood and treasure, standardising their weapons and relentlessly building up a military-industrial complex and a technical elite to rival the Pentagon. As a garrison force, the Soviet army quelled dissent in the satellite countries acquired after the second world war. East Berliners armed with cobblestones in 1953, hanged Poles and Hungarians in 1956, despairing Czechs in 1968 and Solidarity in December 1981, all succumbed directly or indirectly to Russian tanks. Western Europe trembled too as America, the new peripheral power, rapidly demobilised its troops after 1945. Stalin's forces remained in Berlin and Prague.

But is it too fanciful to suggest that the age of the microchip and of America's Strategic Defence Initiative was beginning to herald the decline of Soviet power? Perhaps more ominous still, since the 1970s Russian infant mortality has risen and life expectancy has declined. The Russian birth-rate slowed and that of the Asiatic states quickened. A demographic time-bomb is ticking away beneath the army. End of story? Writing in *Newsweek*, Henry Kissinger tells of a Russian MP who expressed the sentiments of many influential politicians and officers. "We would never have put forward the commonwealth if we had thought it possible that Ukraine might actually become independent. I will never accept Kiev as a foreign city." The polyglot empire can be reconstructed only by military force. Meanwhile, war now rages in Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union is in ferment. Is the man on horseback saddling up?



...and moreover
CRAIG BROWN

The revelation that Tony Benn's Holland Park archive contains diaries he has kept from the age of nine has sent tremors of excitement through London's literary and political establishments. This column is delighted to have secured the rights to the first week of these diaries, kicking off on Master Benn's ninth birthday.

April 3, 1934: A delegation of friends arrives at my tea party. "Happy Birthday to You," they say.

"Please, I beg of you, let's not bring personalities into it," I reply. "The fact that it is my birthday is irrelevant in the broader historical perspective. It could just as easily be anyone else's, though of course under the present system each individual is permitted — not that it has ever been voted upon, mind, oh no, they wouldn't let that happen — to have only one birthday per year. So let's take our own destinies into our hands and try to stick to the larger issue of birthdays as a whole, shall we?"

I then open "my" presents. One of them is a book containing very moving rhymes about the politically oppressed, such as Little Jack Horner, forced by the establishment of the day to sit in a corner, and Mr and Mrs Spratt and the very real difficulties they encountered in the field of nutrition. Old Jack Spratt, a marvellous old figure, solid working class and proud of it, is fondly remembered as a

leading figure in the great Lean movement of the last century. April 4: A day at the beach. While the others build castles, I attempt to create a blueprint for satisfactory workers' accommodation. The tide comes in and wipes it out. Anyone in public life today who attempts to build sandcastles about Marxist principles runs such a risk. The British establishment has no wish to see workers' sandcastles flourish, and it will not lift a finger to prevent the sea obliterating them.

April 5: A delegation of friends arrives to ask me to join a game of The Armed Forces of the Establishment versus Victims of Society's Injustice, or Cops and Robbers as they choose to term it. I agree to support the side of the oppressed, and find myself hoisted along with the other so-called robbers until caught. Frankly, the sanctioning of such behaviour reveals an awful lot about the sort of capitalist society we live in at present. I point this out to my colleagues, who are most interested, placing a bucket on my head as a gesture of their appreciation.

April 6: In the school gymnasium we are asked to hop on one foot from one end of the building to the other. "Don't you see?" I ask my colleagues. "It's their way of trying to make us forget how to use both feet at the same time! They know that once we're in the habit of hopping, we'll be unable to return to running or even walking — and they'll have us where they want

as! My schoolboy colleagues do not understand, preferring to remain in ignorance. Candidly, a massive programme of re-education must be undertaken if we are to get this whole hopping issue into the open.

April 7: At a children's tea-party, I am called upon to play Pake-Cake. Before playing, I put it to the party conference that it was no business of ours to ask the hard-pressed baker's man to bake us a cake "as fast as you can", at least not until a valid productivity agreement had been re-negotiated. Not until those who pat cakes own the means of their production will I feel happy about playing, I argue. They seem to value my contribution, rewarding me, by urging me to have the garden to myself for the rest of the party while they remain indoors.

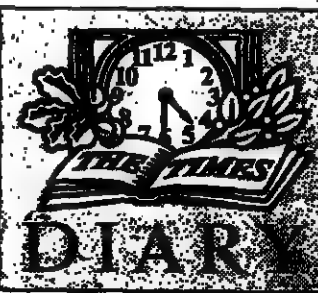
April 8: I am three-quarters through my copy of *The Beano*. Small wonder. I argue with my colleagues that Dan is Desperate — he's unemployed, he's only got the one shirt, he has no home, he's a manual labourer, a member of the working classes and he can't even afford a decent razor. And it seems to me quite extraordinary that a lad such as Dennis — surely no more than six or seven — should be termed "Menace" by our society for nothing more than a few brave acts of political defiance. And as for Keyhole Kate, she is widely known to be a full-time operative for the intelligence services.

Frightening the cavalry

TO the utter disgust of the nation's military, four of Britain's best-known soldiers from two world wars will be the target of a bizarre protest on Thursday, which will allege they were homosexual.

The statues in Whitehall of field marshals Haig, Kitchener, Montgomery and the Earl Mountbatten will be decked with pink garlands by the gay rights group Outrage. The protest is against attitudes to homosexuality in the armed forces, where it remains a court martial offence. The demonstration, to be addressed by the Labour MP Harry Cohen, has drawn a furious response from some of Britain's leading military figures. Field Marshal Lord Carver says: "It is a ridiculous protest, which is in bad taste. It does nothing but harm to their cause. But our great soldiers will hardly be turning in their graves: they faced far worse on the battlefields."

Outrage, whose members include the film-maker Derek Jarman, claims to have documentary evidence to support the contention that the soldiers were gay. "Kitchener had a long standing affair with Captain Oswald Fitzgerald, a Bengal Lancer who became his aide de camp," according to the writer Michael Ellman. Another author, Denis Winter, alleges that Haig married at 44 simply in order to cover up his sexuality when scandal threatened. The group claims "anecdotal evidence" about the other two soldiers, which has incensed General Sir John Hackett, who was wounded three times in the last war and knew both Montgomery and Mountbatten well. "It is unforgivable. But Mountbatten would have laughed at them, which is what we should do."



● Sponsors love television crime almost as much as the public. Rumpole of the Bailey is brought to us courtesy of Croft's port and Inspector Morse by Beamish stout. But what are we to make of Granada's new Krimberg-sponsored Maigret? Absolutely apt: it is a French premium lager for the French premium detective. Says Granada's sponsorship controller, John Marchant, Few in Britain will realise that it is a French brew. Maigret himself seems to prefer a glass of vin rouge — and when that is not available, he is quite happy with a glass of plain Parisian water.

First refusal

FOLLOWING a verbal flogging by the Master of the Queen's Music, Andrew Lloyd Webber seems to have incurred the wrath of charity organisers at a primary school in Kent. When they asked him to donate a small gift for their charity draw, they were astonished to receive instead a somewhat uncharitable putdown from Lloyd Webber's personal assistant, claiming that since such trinkets had in the past been sold or at vast profit, the composer was not minded to help. "Regrettably, in order to retain some control over effects personal to Andrew Lloyd Webber and The Really Useful

Group, we have been forced to adopt this policy," says the letter. "We were only hoping for a couple of tickets to raffle," says Sandy Breeze of the Cartwright and Kelsey School near Canterbury. Claire Taylor for Lloyd Webber's office shrugs off the children's disappointment: "There was an incident, since when he has decided to stop making such gifts to anyone."

Re-Release

MICK JAGGER may not be popular with Japanese immigration officials, but he is top of the guest list of those invited to mark the silver jubilee of the drugs charity Release. Jagger will be the guest of honour at the July "Release feast", marking the 25th anniversary of its first rally calling for the legalisation of cannabis in Hyde Park following his 1967 arrest. After the rally, Release set up its legal advice service which has been running ever since.

Anthony Scrivenor QC, former chairman of the bar, will be a

guest, alongside Caroline, Coon, who set up Release while studying at the Central School of Art, and without whom no trendy chat-show in the late sixties was complete. A quarter of a century on, Mr Coon insists that unlike Jagger

she is still nowhere near old enough to be a grandparent. But she was clearly upset by the singer's Japanese difficulties. "Sometimes it seems there's been absolutely no progress," she sighs.

● The Joint Matriculation Board says A-level students are guilty of using too many clichés and colloquialisms. Such candidates, the report declares, "are simply shooting themselves in the foot". Isn't there a saying about people in glass houses?

Air affair

THE Tories seem to have won the battle for the skies already. While Central Office has hired a BAe 146 jet for the election — known as "Blue Leader One" or "John's Jet" — Labour and the Liberal Democrats have commissioned more humble aerial transport. Paddy Ashdown, abandoning the Liberal Democrats' ancient battle bus for the first time, has turned to Dan Air for a 15-year-old de Havilland turbo-prop. The 48-seater, dubbed "The Bird of Liberty" after the party logo, usually ferries package holidaymakers to the Costa. Paddy Ashdown's office admits it is not the most luxurious plane in the hire market. "We wanted one like the Tories, but we couldn't afford it," they say with disarming honesty. Yet the Lib Dems intend to charge journalists £4,500 per head for the trip, half as much again as the two main parties.

After its disastrous performance on the runway in 1987, Labour is coy about its choice of plane this time. But Neil Kinnock will be hoping for an improvement on "Red Rose One", the early 1950s Britannia which let the leader down so badly last time, breaking down twice in the first two days of the campaign.



DEADLY DEBITS

If war is the extension of politics by other means, Clausewitz's dictum would today doubtless embrace assassination, shoot-to-kill, kidnapping, internment and other paraphernalia of modern "low intensity" conflict. The killings over the weekend in the Middle East and Northern Ireland may each be different in context and motivation. But the corpses are just as dead and their contribution to the peaceful resolution of conflict just as obscure.

Higher standards are expected of governments and their agents than of those who would subvert them. Whatever the sense of injustice felt by the IRA or Hezbollah or the PLO, their resort to violence is abhorrent. In reacting to this violence, both Britain and Israel make great play of their espousal of democracy and the rule of law: these are what legitimises their projection of power, into Ulster and into the territories bordering on Israel. The basis of their presence may be different in the two cases, but both states claim moral supremacy over those who contest their rule.

This means that the killings in South Lebanon and Coatsland cannot be excused as equal and opposite to, for instance, recent IRA outrages or the murder of Israeli soldiers in their beds last Friday. Neither reaction appears to have involved soldiers shooting in self-defence nor even in hot pursuit. Neither Britain nor Israel has any law authorising the non-judicial killing of citizens of their own or foreign countries, however outrageous the provocation. To "stoop to the level of the gunman" undermines moral supremacy. It validates the gunman's claim that he is fighting a war, not committing common murder. It compromises the process of arrest, trial and imprisonment by which the rule of law is supposedly sustained.

So far, so straightforward. But low-intensity war — General Kitson's celebrated phrase for the stock-in-trade of today's soldier/policeman — has always implied gradations of response. A feature of such

war is that those fighting them must behave initially as policemen, arresting wrongdoers and bringing them to justice. Another feature of such wars is that politics and military tactics sometimes require a more immediate response.

Israel is a democracy and its people permanently on a war footing, are schooled to revenge. Some military response to the Friday attack was clearly vital if its government was to have any hope of maintaining even its half-hearted commitment to the peace talks. Likewise in Ulster, Peter Brooke's extravagant but broken-backed security policy needed a quick "victory" in a province fearful that the IRA can now operate with virtual impunity.

In Israel such bloodshed is openly boasted, the more so to restore public morale. Outsiders can only conclude that, of all the blood shed recently, that of Sheikh Moussawi is hardly the most innocent. In Northern Ireland, British governments prefer to cloak their killings in the garb of self-defence, the better to suggest compliance with the rule of law. That both populations' morale can be lifted by the shedding of blood is a sign of the political degeneration in their respective theatres.

Neither case is susceptible to the snap moral judgment of those sitting safe in distant armchairs. Both must be subject to the pragmatic test of each act of war: how far will it contribute to eventual peace? Israel is now sliding into what seems the end game of the latest struggle with its Arab neighbours. The howls for bloody revenge in Beirut yesterday suggest that Moussawi's death is hardly a step toward peace. In Ulster, a periodic shoot-to-kill incident may be tactically preferable to internment. But a security policy based on such methods is no substitute for political reform. For all the references to "talks about talks", the British government is now committed to no change in the status quo. As long as this is true, such killings will be hard to defend as "a means to an end". What end?

OPTED INTO ANARCHY

Trumpets greeted last year's decision by Stratford School to opt out of local authority control. The efforts of the London Borough of Newham to close the school were defeated, thanks (in the words of one report) to "a dedicated and enthusiastic body of governors". Henceforth "free from the dead hand of local bureaucrats, pupils will leave better qualified with a brighter future". This was exactly what ministers had hoped would flow from opting out. When the school rolls rose from 180 pupils to 220, the optimism appeared justified.

Reality has been different. Some of the "dedicated" governors, according to a minute reported in yesterday's *Times*, were apparently dedicated largely to securing lucrative posts for themselves and each other. Freed from the controlling hand of the local council, one of their number, a teacher/governor, has allegedly accused the school's head, Anne Snelling, of being a "liar and a racist". The chairman of the governors seeks her dismissal. The governing body jumps on attempts by parents to start a Friends of Stratford School Association. The police have been called in.

Where in all this stands the education secretary? Mr Clarke prides himself as a bruiser. He has savaged progressive educationists and local authorities generally. He has taken draconian powers over the new opted-out grant maintained schools and can, at the stroke of a pen, cut them off without a penny. So far he has merely appointed two extra governors to the governing body, who, aided by a boycott by some other governors, have succeeded in reversing his worst decisions. He is said to be preparing instructions which will lay down the limit of the governors' powers. But his advisers are worried whether further interference would be supported by the courts.

Mr Clarke is hoist by his own petard. His government invented opting out as a way of snipping precisely the sort of local political antics seen at Stratford from interfering with

good schooling. Having willed the end, he can hardly now deny the means, governor independence. If he does, he must accept that opting out of local authority control always meant, as its critics said, opting in to control by Whitehall and its political masters.

In the days when local schools were run by local councils, the parents, teachers, councillors and other local representatives were granted balanced representation on governing bodies under a system of election from local officers. This could lead to an excess of bureaucracy and of political interference, at least in some cities. Such evils the government's own initiative for "local management of schools" is eroding. As a result, governors and heads are gaining more power and more control over their budgets.

In opted-out schools, the law is vague on the relative power of governors and head, though the governors would seem to be sovereign subject only to the intervention of the secretary of state. Since the governors depend on Whitehall for resources, including capital for expansion, this intervention is certain to grow and become ever more bureaucratic. The central administration of the hospitals and prisons is an awful warning.

Mr Clarke must be sorely tempted to make clear that the authority of the Stratford head teacher must be restored and the governors' power restricted. He may issue a circular saying that schools will not be permitted to abuse their autonomy at public expense. But where then stands his "free market" in secondary education? Surely other schools in Newham should be given free rein to attract children back from Stratford School, rather than see the latter benefit yet further from Whitehall's attention and largesse. Above all, Mr Clarke should now reassess his policy of letting some schools opt out, passing into his personal control, while others "sink" in the hands of cash-limited local councils. That policy was never clearly thought out. It is now leaking at all seams.

A CASE OF FALSE NOTES

Why in a visual medium like film or television does falsity in what is heard have more power to spoil dramatic illusion than falsity in what is seen? Why in the current remake of *Simenon's* Maigret does an English cockney voice seem so wrong in the mouths of characters presented in every other way as wholly French, complete with wine glass and beret?

The quest for visual authenticity even led the production team to Budapest, a city felt to look more Parisian than Paris (at least in its 1950s mode). But there was no equivalent to this successful Budapest bluff on the soundtrack. Making the Chief's rough-spoken crew adopt the raw accents of London's East End blocks all suspension of disbelief. *Pourquoi?* Thereby hangs a mystery worthy of the great man himself, one he would need to tackle with full pipe and pouch.

What might he contemplate, feet up, veiled in smoke, eyes half closed? Chief Inspector Jules Maigret's reputation rests upon his sympathy for the common man. He would observe surely that speech is an aid to the instant classification of humankind, to the anticipation of what to expect from strangers, far more useful than appearances, given the sameness of modern dress.

Maigret is as much a listener as a looker. We must listen with him. What we hear must be as audibly Parisian as Budapest in the springtime is visually so. Cockney will not do. To the English ear it is the sound of wharfmen in Wapping, costermongers in Commercial Road or the comical corporals of old war movies. It is no more suitable to convey

the argot of *La Sûreté* than drawing American, say, would suit an actor playing Mozart (as Tom Hulce notoriously turned the film *Amadeus* into a Yank in Old Vienna).

Michael Gambon manages to play Maigret, like Rupert Davies in the 1960s, in the nondescript minor registers of the English middle-middle class — the "school-master of Slough" solution — with just a hint of something regional but nothing too vulgar. Clipped upper class, a voice which having launched a thousand prewar ships is now becoming as scarce as genuine cockney, is as hilariously ill suited to his tough-talking colleagues as to Maigret himself. But that does not stop one of his assistants being awarded a "public school" accent by the casting director.

Only two choices offer themselves. Either Maigret should have spoken French and had done with it, subtitled and all. Or his Frenchness should have been suppressed altogether and he moved to Britain. There he could be surrounded by underlings who can imitate (or revert to type in) the authentic tones of the Metropolitan Police traffic division. This is the polite but anti-posh speech of English working class officialdom, improved South London with a levels, Queen's *Detectives* English. Here among the lads from the Bill are the true British equivalents of *les flics*. Here Maigret could ply his trade, detecting criminality in each nuance of accentuation like a true Henry Higgins. As it was, viewers are left just baffled by the sight of Essex man quaffing his *vin ordinaire* in Budapest-sur-Seine.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Peckham Road, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Fourth Trident boat needed to maintain nuclear deterrent

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewis

Sir, In the current debate on the future of Trident there is sometimes confusion over the relationship between the number of boats and the number of warheads.

The number of Trident boats is a matter for political decision, but a decision that should be based on the advice of those who have had 25 years' experience of operating the Polaris squadron and taking into account the latest intelligence assessments.

Polaris was planned as a five-boat force. The incoming Labour government in 1964 cancelled the fifth boat, thereby saving £60 million. Within ten years unforeseen improvements in Soviet anti-ballistic missile defences required improvements to the penetrative capability of Polaris — the Chevaline programme (letter, February 6) — which cost £1 billion. This would not have been necessary if a five-boat force had been retained.

In the present four-boat Polaris force there is always one in refit and a second preparing for refit or working up after refit. This leaves two in the operating cycle: one on patrol, the other in transit or engaged in loading stores and maintenance between patrols. Thus the average operational availability on patrol is something over one, perhaps 1.5

when the submarines are new but nearer to 1.1 when they are as old as the Polaris boats. Like old cars, servicing now takes longer and costs more.

The Trident submarines, incorporating many design improvements, will have a somewhat better operational availability than their Polaris predecessors, but not to the extent that a three-boat force would be able to guarantee a continuous patrol.

These numbers ignore the insurance factor. In accidents, the Soviets have lost at least three nuclear submarines, the US Navy a similar number. The Royal Navy had a serious fire in HMS Warspite (not a Polaris boat) which put her out of action for over two years. Losing a Polaris boat by unfortunate accident would destroy the credibility of a continuously deployed deterrent.

Removing this insurance margin puts a great strain on those who have to maintain and operate the deterrent force and I understand that recently, because of reactor problems, crews have had to extend by two thirds the normal 60-day patrols. As so often happens, the servicemen pays for political parsimony.

To count a submarine in refit as contributing to warhead numbers deployed clearly exaggerates our capability. The sensible figure to

discuss is perhaps a maximum of two boats worth fully operational at any one time — 96 for Polaris (assuming each missile still has three warheads) and 256 for Trident, since HMG has announced that it will not deploy more than 128 warheads per submarine, even though each Trident missile can carry 12 warheads.

There have been hints recently from ministers (letter, February 14) that in certain circumstances the warhead numbers deployed could be substantially less. There is indeed nothing to prevent some missiles being fitted with only one warhead, when Trident might be considered as a sub-strategic deterrent.

There are perhaps economies to be made in exploiting the flexibility of the warhead/missile combination, since the latter are very much more expensive than the former. Certainly it would be pointless to procure more than enough missiles for three submarines since this is the maximum that could be loaded at any one time. There have been suggestions that each submarine might need to carry fewer than 16 missiles: there would undoubtedly be savings if a smaller number would satisfy our deterrent needs for the next 30 years.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS
House of Lords,
February 15.

Calling Gilbert in from the cold

From Mr Julian Wontner and Sir Hugh Casson

Sir, Mr Hardcastle's letter (February 1) about the W. S. Gilbert medallion on Victoria Embankment is most timely. In this anniversary year of Sullivan, is it not finally time that Gilbert came in from the cold windswept wall, close to Hungerford bridge, where he has "quietly and without ceremony" languished unnoticed for far too long, to join his colleagues Sullivan and D'Oyly Carte, in the pleasant precincts of the Victoria Embankment Gardens? The famous trio of the Savoy Theatre would thus be reunited.

Gilbert and Sullivan fans might also be interested to know that a pair of commemorative gates celebrating the Savoy operas have been designed and are being made by a Scottish craftsman to grace the entrance to the Savoy Centenary garden, opposite the Savoy Hotel.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN WONTNER,
HUGH CASSON,
The Savoy Hotel, Strand, WC2.
February 10.

Council tax payments

From Lord Henderson of Brompton

Sir, Tomorrow the House of Lords further discusses the Bill for the council tax. Mistakes made in the community charge must not be repeated in the council tax. Implementation of the new tax should be in line with the excellent principles of the recently launched citizen's charter, and should be accompanied by positive attempts to establish a new climate for the payment of local services and, in particular, to make payment easier for people on low incomes.

Tomorrow also sees the publication of a report by the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, *Charging into the tax*. The report makes a number of recommendations, some of which will be discussed in the Lords debate.

First, local authorities should be under a duty to allow people on low incomes to pay their council tax on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Secondly, people should not be summonsed for payment of council tax if they have an outstanding claim for benefit which has not been paid by the local authority. Thirdly, where people have fallen into arrears, they should be given every opportunity to repay before bailiff action is taken.

I welcome the fact that the government have tabled an amendment to regulate bailiffs more closely, which gives some hope that they may agree to the other amendments. The CAB service is well placed to comment on the effects of the community charge. It is vital that the government listens to the evidence of their report.

Yours sincerely,
HENDERSON OF BROMPTON,
House of Lords,
February 17.

BBC's future

From Mr Howell James

Sir, Your correspondence columns (February 7, 12) reflect concern that the BBC is debating its future behind closed doors and that efficiency measures should await the outcome of the charter review debate.

In fact after a period of debate within the BBC, informed by outside views and research, we will publish a major document later this year. This will set down the results of our research and thinking about funding, organisation and our role in a changing broadcast marketplace. Our aim is to stimulate and inform the debate.

On the efficiency point, some capacity reductions follow from the introduction in 1993 of a 25 per cent quota for independent production. But other measures reflect a proper response to changes around us — the growth of the independent sector, productivity improvements and overhead reductions elsewhere in broadcasting.

We want to enter the period of debate about the charter review at least as efficient as other broadcasters. We do not want that discussion clouded by continuing charges about bureaucracy and inefficiency. The debate should be about programme purposes.

Yours faithfully,
HOWELL JAMES
(Director of Corporate Affairs),
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Broadcasting House, W1.
February 13.

Borderline case

From Mr Mark Sedgwick

Sir, Together with a return ticket from Edinburgh to London, British Airways sent me an itinerary including a notice telling me that "it is the responsibility of passengers to ensure that their documents, passports and visas are valid for travel". Surely this is premature?

Yours etc.,
MARK SEDGWICK,
136 South Street,
St Andrews, Fife.
February 17.

Business letters, page 21

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5044.

Accountancy rules

From Mr Stephen Gundry, FCA

Sir, Your leader (February 10) is right to castigate the accountants, but I fear you duck the big issues underlying recent scandals: that self-regulation amongst our City institutions really is not working. How can the various pillars of our financial establishment justify the failure to spot what Robert Maxwell was up to?

The public has a right to believe that fraud of such magnitude must be detected by auditors, and if it is not compensation should be paid promptly and in full from the City's coffers, leaving to the regulators and the courts the question of recovery from those responsible for the oversight.

The Stock Exchange should start by telling the Institute of Chartered Accountants that its members' dual roles of auditor and adviser will simply not do, at least as far as our public companies are concerned. With apologies to Lord Justice Lopes

(1896), no one wants the major firms to become bloodhounds, but they do need to decide whether they are going to be watchdogs, as he suggested, or poodles.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN GUNDY,
1 Brunnsfield Terrace,
Edinburgh 10,
February 12.

From Mr David A. O'Connor

Sir, The chartered accountant husband of Mrs Pamela L. Litman (letter, February 8) might find some dubious support for his status in the 1859 trust deed which established the estate on which I live. Two of the three founder trustees (a dentist and a solicitor) are described as gentlemen, the third as an accountant.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. O'CONNOR,
The Headlands, Stanley Road,
Barnedown, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
February 8.

Credit where due

From Professor Alan Thompson

Sir, The British secretary is partly given credit for her brains... (Life & Times, February 11). This observation, launching your contest to find the secretary of the year, is simply borne out by the recent excellent television programmes on Winston Churchill.

The real stars of this programme (who have hitherto gone largely unrecognised in the history of the period) were not the generals, admirals, politicians, professors and civil servants: they were the splendid women who served as secretaries to Churchill. Their personal reminiscences revealed an authority, confidence and humour which clearly kept the boss going.

When Churchill was down and depressed they bullied him back into a state of confidence and cheerfulness. When he was ebullient and over-excited they calmed him down. And all the time they got on with the job of organising his speeches to Parliament and the US Congress, long memoranda to "Montgomery" and mobilising Britain for victory.

It would be interesting to know how many of them figured in the generous honours list which followed the war.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN THOMPSON,
11 Upper Gray Street,
Edinburgh 9.

Order of the bath

From Mr Alan Price Talbot

Sir, I am pleased to inform your correspondent Mr Roger J. Southern (letter, February 14) that we Welsh sit happily in our zinc baths in front of our open coal fires and whilst having our backs washed by adoring members of our families, firmly resolve not to complete correctly impertinent questionnaires about our personal and private pleasures.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN PRICE-TALBOT,
Llysane House, Mill Road,
Llysane, Cardiff, South Glamorgan.

From Mr W. Keith Yates

Sir, Having a bath may serve many useful purposes, but the only way to achieve the real objective in my view is to have a shower afterwards.

Yours faithfully,
W. KEITH YATES,
22 Castleton Grove, Jesmond,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Unpaid bills

From Mr R. G. J. Ottaway

Sir, Mr Alistair Sampson (letter, February 5) seems to believe that the main parties would support legislation enabling creditors to obtain interest on the late payment of debts.

When I introduced the Right to Interest Bill in the House of Commons in 1987 the government stated it would support the Bill if requested to do so by the CBI and Institute of Directors. Despite the backing of the smaller members of these two institu-

tions, neither has supported such a proposal, which could perhaps explain the government's continuing reliance on an ineffective voluntary code.

Business is unlikely to get a right to interest on the late payment of debts until it asks for it.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD OTTAWAY (MP for
Northampton North, 1983-7),
Croydon South Conservative
Association,
36 Brighton Road, Purley, Surrey.

Seeing watercolours

From the Director of the V&A

Sir, With reference to Dr Prochaska's letter (February 1) on seeing the work of the great watercolourists and the later correspondence (February 6) watercolours are regularly shown not only here, traditionally regarded as the national collection, but at the British Museum and the Tate Gallery, not to mention the great regional centres, such as Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Norwich.

Visitors to the V&A can see changing displays of framed watercolours hanging in their own gallery and can also study them minutely, unframed, in the print room. The combination of these facilities, together with the strong tradition of expertise in our own staff, our active exhibition programme and policy of generous lending to the regions have established the V&A as the national centre for the study of watercolour painting. Sandby (1986), Girtin (1975), Cotman (1982), Cox (1983), Varley (1984), Sandby and Proust (1985) have all been the subject of exhibitions at the V&A.

One of the great strengths of the V&A's collections is precisely that the work of an individual artist or, in this case, a particular medium can be seen in context with work from other cultures, other media and other periods in art history. This strength far outweighs any apparent value in isolating either artists or media in dedicated galleries.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH ESTEVE-COLL,
Director,
Victoria & Albert Museum,
South Kensington, SW7.

Bombs away!

From Mr Richard F. Ackers

Sir, I was amused by Marcus Binney's bombing run through the streets of London ("Come friendly bombs", *Life & Times*, February 12) — but why did he spare Westminster Cathedral, easily the most hideous building off Victoria Street?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD F. ACKERS,
Broad Oven Cottage, Bryants Bottom,
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

From Mrs Jenny Forbes

Sir, Marcus Binney should have started his purge slightly further west. The Earls Court corner of Fulham where I live is particularly blessed with architectural gems.

Why spare the Ministry of Defence's towering horror, known as the Empress State Building, in Lillie Road or the charm-free concrete Ramada Inn almost opposite it? And while we're about it, why keep that squat and lowering pile, the Earls Court exhibition building? Raze them!

Yours faithfully,
JENNY FORBES,
17 Empress Place, SW6.

From Rear Admiral T. B. Homan

Sir, The picture in your February 7 issue, illustrating the Westminster eyecore of the Marsham Street blocks, shows an equally abominable spoliation of central London — the Hungerford bridge, linking Waterloo and Charing Cross stations.

If Charing Cross station has to be retained in its present role, an attractive new bridge could be built. Better, however, would be to terminate the railway at Waterloo, demolish the bridge, and convert Charing Cross station into an art gallery, on the lines of the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.

Yours faithfully,
T. B. HOMAN,
602 Hood House,
Dolphin Square, SW1.

From Mr Simon de Laet

Sir, We must be an affluent society indeed to countenance pulling down a building simply on the grounds that it offends the eye.

Yours faithfully,
S. de LAET,
Salix Cottage, Bury Road, Hargrave,
Salix St Edmunds, Suffolk.

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

Abortion for girl refused

The affidavit amounts to the first major political crisis for Albert Reynolds, the new prime minister who has so far refused to intervene. Dr John O'Connell, his minister for health, has said that he would try to persuade the girl's family "that the baby should be born and then adopted". One of the more absurd features of the case is that the Irish police must now prevent the girl from leaving the country, *should she try to do so.*

In his judgment, Mr Justice Declan Connelley said he was constitutionally bound to take the decision. He realised the event was "tragic, painful and distressing" for all concerned and revealed that the alleged rapist was the "depraved" father of the girl's best friend. He said the right to life was a moral issue and *threat* by the pregnant victim to take her own life had to be considered.

in a statement from Brussels last night. Bruce Millan, the European Commissioner, said that the new arrangements met the Commission's concern that European grants should be treated separately from normal British government capital allocations. Mr Millan, a former Labour cabinet minister, said he was pleased to release the money for "hard-hit coal-mining areas".



FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BUENOS AIRES

Mengele's mistress was named as Aldat Nora Eddat Nurit, who arrived in Argentina in 1953 and lived in Buenos Aires until 1960 when she was mysteriously killed by unknown assailants.

agency, Side, follows the release last week of federal police files on Nazi war criminals harboured in Argentina after the second world war. The Side files show that Mengele used 14 false names during the 11 years that he lived in Argentina. The files also suggest that Side only started to look for him — and issued an arrest warrant — after Mengele left the country and took refuge in Asunción, Paraguay, in 1960.

The files also mention Martin Bornmann, Hitler's deputy. They say that "the accused arrived in Argentina on

board a submarine, named US30 in June 1945". However, the Side files leave many questions unanswered. Of the 261 pages handed over by Side to the national archives, 250 were press cuttings.

"We expected much more information to come out of the intelligence files," said Eugenio Rom, the director of the national archives. "It seems that a lot has been got rid of." He claimed, but offered no proof, that the files have given him the names of 14 Nazi war criminals, whom the Argentine authorities could now begin to trace.

Continued from page 1

The Dublin government asked the British authorities for details of Sunday's shooting. The shooting was also raised at a meeting in Lisbon between Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and David Andrews, the new Irish foreign minister.

Background, page 2
Leading article, page 13

English pander to Welsh wails

teachers are "extremely pleased with their 7.8 per cent," chortled junior minister Sir Wyn Roberts, now completing his thirteenth year in that post.

For long-time students of

by Mr Hunt's next reply, to Labour's Huw Edwards (Monmouth). Edwards wanted help for the unemployed in the Monmouth travel-to-work area . . .

"I'm happy to announce," began the Welsh secretary . . .

What the people of Wales make of all this, we shall

MATTHEW PARRIS

A 26x26 crossword puzzle grid. The grid is composed of white squares (for letters) and black squares (for empty space). The numbers 1 through 26 are placed in the starting squares of the words, indicating their row and column. The grid is designed for a 26-letter word to be placed horizontally and another 26-letter word to be placed vertically, intersecting at a single square.

ACROSS

- 4 Business that produces jam, perhaps (7).
- 5 Mistake a call of derision for something really frightful (7).
- 9 Favourite clue an anagram? It may appear in crossword, so to speak (9).
- 10 The dance hasn't finished, man (5).
- 11 Heel of Achilles, literally (5).
- 12 Direct one production that's (5).
- 14 Obdurate Scott's very likely to embrace maiden (14).
- 17 Sound a small instrument to reveal what's wrong (4,3,7).
- 21 Part of London – poor quarter? Just the reverse (9).
- 23 Assent a European king withheld (5).
- 24 Riding for a place (5).

25 Tr

- 26 **Rest** lacking capital? You best
(5, 2).
- 27 **Stone** in the form of ring young
lady conceals (7).
- DOWN**
- 1 **I**, for one, will often get depressed
by such a worker (6).
- 2 **It** provokes defensive reaction
from enemy with intelligence (7).
- 3 **Laugh** inappropriately as Jack gets
in barrel (4, 5).
- 4 **Prominent** decoration given by
King or Queen? (11).
- 5 **Community** effort for social
workers (3).
- 6 **Assumed** fact, putting two and
two together in information (5).
- 7 **One** of the **Bryants** — the fashion-
able one — was an artist (7).
- 8 **Take** precedence over in ex-

Solution to Puzzle No 18,843

R	A	G	W	R	E	D	E	N	D	E	M	I	C
A	E	X	T	U	R	I	E	V					
M	O	O	S	E									
B	R	A	D	E	T	I	S						
L	I	G	H	T									
S	E		C										
R	A	T	E	L	I	T	S						
T	A	N	O	E	R								
G	R	E	E	N									
A	T	L	A	S									
M	E	C	H	A	N	I	S						
M	E	C	H	A	N	I	S						
A	I	P	E	A	T								
R	E	T	R	E	A	T							
S	E	R	P	E	N	T							

say? (8).

13 Clumsy and old-fashioned mack
hark work (11).
15 Transient reforms without delay
(9).
16 Person who opposes aim —
nothing right with it? (3).
18 Displacing son in expedition (7).
19 Bounty — a big ship (7).
20 Minute left in which to see a
second animal (6).
22 Rising leader associated with
martial centre? (5).
25 Honour apparent to ingoing PM
(3).

Concise Crossword, page 13

CONCRETE

CONGREET
a. To weep extravagantly
b. To greet modestly
c. A UCL beadle

MALNOIA
a. A desert wall-flower
b. Sea-sickness
c. Feeling of mental disorientation

EPICEDIAN
a. Sexually ambivalent
b. A second-year student
c. Misandrist

PANTOFFLE
a. A infect voutlie
b. An early galeosh
c. A giant clown

AA ROADWA
For the latest AA traffic
works information, 24 h
dial 0836 401 follow
appropriate code.
London & SE
C. London (within N & S C
M-ways/roads MA-M1...
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M
M-ways/roads M23-MA...
M25 London Orbital only
National
National motorways...
West Country...
Wales...
Midlands...
East Angles...
North-west England...
North-east England...
Scotland...
Northern Ireland...
AA Roadwatch is charge
minute (cheap rate) and 4

East Anglia and southeast England will be cold and mostly dry. Much of the rest of England and Wales will have snow during the morning, with a couple of inches in places, chiefly over high ground. The snow should gradually die out but it will stay cold and dull, although becoming brighter in northwest England and north Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly sunny and frosty. Outlook: mostly sunny days and frosty nights.

[illegible][illegible]

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 888 500 followed by the appropriate code.


	Byes	Reits		
Australia \$	9.42	2.28	Greater London	761
Austria Scl	2.08	2.08	Kent, Surrey, Sussex	762
Belgium Fr	92.10	95.10	London, Hereford & IOW	763
Canada Cdn	2.08	2.08	Devon & Cornwall	704
Denmark Kr	11.89	10.03	Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Avon, Somerset	705
Finland Mkm	8.37	7.97	Gloucestershire, Devon	706
France Ffr	10.00	9.65	Bucks, Herts & Essex	707
Germany DM	3.02	2.82	Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
Greece Dr	354.00	328.00	West Mid & Shire Glam & Gwent	709
Hong Kong \$	14.25	13.25	Stroud, Hereford & Worce	710
Ireland Pst	1.125	1.055	Central Midlands	711
Italy Lira	2925.00	2115.00	East Midlands	712
Japan Yen	243.00	224.00	Lincoln & Humberside	713
Netherlands Gld	3.3325	3.165	Dyfed & Pembro	714
Norway Kr	1.56	1.109	Shropshire, Shyr	715
Portugal Escudo	208.00	208.00	N W England	716
South Africa Rnd	5.50	4.00	N & Yorks & District	717
Spain Ptas	169.50	174.50	N W England	718
Sweden S	11.04	10.74	N & Yorks & District	719
Switzerland Fr	2.71	2.52	Cambs & Lincs District	720
Switzerland Sfr	10.00	9.20	W Scotland	721
USA \$	1.095	1.745	Central Scotland	722
Yugoslavia Dnr	dmb	dmb	Edn & Fife, Orkney & Borders	723


Rates for small denominated bank notes only
 as quoted by Barclays Bank plc. Different
 rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Yearly: Temp: max: 6m to 6pm, 8C
 (38F); min: 5pm to 6pm, -3C (27F). Rain: 24hr
 1.5mm.

Weathered is charged at 56p per minute at
 (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all

London 4.20 pm to 7.08 am
Bristol 6.30 pm to 7.38 am
Manchester 6.59 pm to 7.31 am
Manchester 5.24 pm to 7.21 am
Penzance 5.44 pm to 7.27 am

 Sun sets
7:10 am
Moon sets
6:48 am

 Moon rises
8:20 pm
Moon sets
8:3 pm

Full moon 8.4 am

Wentworth at midday yesterday: a, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

Belfast	6 41	r	Guernsey	8 49	h
Birmingham	4 39	r	Inverness	9 37	r
Bristol	4 39	r	London	5 41	r
Cardiff	7 27	r	Manchester	6 41	r
Edinburgh	7 48	r	Newcastle	4 39	r
Glasgow	2 50	h	Widney	8 41	r

Sunday: High tide 10.55 am; low tide 10.05 pm. Lowest tide: sea level. Highest rainfall: 1.4 in. Lowest: 0.1 in. Sunshine: 1.5 hr. Sunrise: Falmouth, Cornwall, 8.4 hr.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPS: See item to page 7C (NSP); min 60, max 76, —4C (NSP); rain 24hr to 5.10 pm, Sun 24hr to 6.30, 0.5 hr.

	AM	HT	PM	HT
TODAY				
London Bridge	1.26	7.1	1.27	7.4
Newham	1.0	4.4	1.0	4.4
Avonmouth	1.4	13.7	7.4	13.8
Cardiff	1.0	10.0	1.0	10.0
Dartford	0.49	12.6	7.19	12.7
Canterbury	0.8	10.5	7.17	10.7
Greenwich	0.8	12.1	7.11	12.8
Falmouth	5.18	0.5	5.47	5.4
Gosport	1.2	10.0	1.2	10.0
Harwich	1.49	4.0		

	AM	HT	PM	HT
TODAY				
Liverpool	11.9	9.8	11.9	9.8
Newham	9.24	8.4	9.24	8.4
Margate				
Milford Haven	6.0	7.3	6.27	7.3
Newport	1.51	7.17	1.51	7.17
Oban	5.41	4.1	5.11	4.0
Portsmouth	4.44	5.8	5.19	5.7
Portsmouth	11.9	9.8	11.9	9.8
Portsmouth	11.9	9.8	11.9	9.8

Full-	10.4	5.9	10.31	5.8	Shoreham	11.1	6.4	11.33	6.8
Full+	6.11	7.5	8.17	7.9	Southampton	10.57	4.3	11.8	4.6
Shcombe	5.49	9.5	8.15	9.6	Swansea	6.12	10.1	6.36	10.1
King's Lynn	6.27	6.7	6.31	7.0	Tees	5.31	5.5	5.43	5.7
Lea	9.87	6.7	9.27	5.9					

Bradford & Bingley rises 7% to £107.8m

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE Bradford & Bingley Building Society yesterday reported a 7 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £107.8 million. In 1990, the figure was £100.6 million.

Provisions totalling £47.6 million were made during 1991 compared with £9.4 million the previous year. The provisions included £17.2 million for irrecoverable interest. They included "a small amount" for the Leamington Spa Building Society's loans. The Leamington Spa merged with B&B, the seventh-largest society, in June and most of its provisions were dealt with in their final accounts.

The Leamington had general reserves of £62 million at the end of 1990. About half of this was expected to be left

after provisions for debts, but only £11 million was transferred to the Bradford & Bingley's reserves.

The Leamington was rescued by B&B when it became apparent it had made a loss in 1990 of £3.6 million.

Last week, the sixth-largest society, the Cheltenham & Gloucester, reported that instead of gaining £35 million to £40 million in reserves from its merger with the Portsmouth Building Society, it had received £1 million.

On Friday, the Northern Rock Building Society announced it was merging with the £300 million Lancastrian. The 12-branch society is expected to announce a loss next month.

John Smith, finance director of the Bradford & Bingley said: "None of us expected the housing market to deteriorate as much as it did."

The society's assets increased by 32 per cent to £11.9 billion from £9.05 billion. Half of this was down to mergers. The B&B also merged with the Hendon and Hampshire building societies last year.

More than £2 billion was lent by the society during the year for house purchase despite the severe slump. The Bradford & Bingley also increased personal pensions business by 30 per cent and now provides personal pensions for more than 60,000 customers.

It also manages 83,000 personal equity plans totalling £212 million.

Geoffrey Lister, chief executive said: "We are very pleased with our results which were achieved in a year when regrettably many of our borrowers faced difficulty in the housing market. Bradford & Bingley took a sympathetic approach to borrowers in difficulty and worked hard to reach satisfactory solutions in cases of hardship."

The society approved loans totalling more than £100 million to housing associations to provide social housing and plans to expand this type of lending this year.

The Bradford & Bingley remains committed to independent financial advice. Mr Lister said: "Bradford & Bingley remains the largest high street financial institution wholly committed to providing independent financial advice. We believe this is best for our customers and best for our business."

Harland chairman steps down

Harland Simon, the specialist engineer, has stepped down as chairman of the profit warning last week, said Roy Ashman had stepped down as chairman.

Mr Ashman, who had remained with the company two years after reaching retirement age, is succeeded by David Mahony, who was chairman of the group until November 1990 when he stepped aside to allow Mr Ashman, then chief executive, to assume a dual role.

Brewery deal

Allied Breweries has signed the agreement with Pubmaster, the retail subsidiary of Brent Walker Group, for the lease of 734 public houses to Pubmaster, the acquisition of 46 managed houses and a beer supply agreement for the remainder of Brent Walker's retail estate.

Net asset rise

The net asset value at The Second Alliance Trust advanced to £13.62 per share at the end of January, up from £13.61 six months earlier and from £10.88 a year earlier. The interim dividend is raised from 11.5p to 12p.

Gartmore up

The net asset value at Gartmore Emerging Pacific Investment Trust has risen to 51.1p at the end of 1991, compared with 44.9p a year earlier. There is a single final dividend of 0.23p (0.1p).

Dividend ahead

The net asset value at Anglo Overseas Trust advanced to 317.3p at the end of 1991, against 267.7p a year earlier. The final dividend is 4.7p (4.4p), making 6.45p (6.15p).

Irens moves

Nicholas Irens is to step down as finance director of First Leisure, a move that will enable him to take up a position as chief executive of a new company soon.

Reece forecast

Reece, the fastener supplier, said it will incur a pre-tax loss in the second half of the financial year to end-December, but will show a profit for the full year.

Long-term jobless likely to rise

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A SHARP rise in the number of people out of work for more than six months is expected to be confirmed by official figures today.

The absence of any economic upturn after 22 consecutive monthly increases in unemployment is certain to push up the numbers of long-term jobless.

The last set of quarterly figures, published in November, showed a 118,000 rise in the number unemployed for more than six months, to 1.2 million.

Although the problem is not as bad as five years ago, evidence from Thames Valley Enterprise (TVE), one of Britain's 82 Training and Enterprise Councils, points to the emergence of an unskilled underclass, apparently incapable of escaping the trap of unemployment without help.

A study, believed to be the first of its type, for TVE by the employment department's intelligence unit, found more than 40 per cent of claimants had no formal qualifications. Of those unemployed for less than six months, 85 per cent had qualifications. But among

Life firm to have charter

By OUR MONEY EDITOR

NATWEST Life, the company being set up by National Westminster Bank and Clerical Medical, will have a customer's charter, Lawrence Churchill, its chief executive, said yesterday.

The life company's products will be sold by NatWest staff in all 2,800 branches and is expected to become one of the top 15 life companies for policies sold. It will have a 1,500 direct sales force in place by the time it starts trading at the end of the year.

The bank will then tie with NatWest Life and will be able to sell only its products.

After his appointment at NatWest Life was announced yesterday, Mr Churchill,

Goldman Sachs to guide Russia

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GOLDMAN Sachs, the American securities house, has been appointed to advise the Russian government on how to attract foreign investment in the federation, Yegor Gaidar, the Russian deputy prime minister, disclosed in Moscow yesterday.

Mr Gaidar said Goldman Sachs would have the task of assisting the committee on foreign investment, chaired by Leonid Grigorov, deputy minister of economy and finance, to develop a strategy for attracting foreign investment in Russia, by far the largest and most resource-rich of the countries to emerge from the former Soviet Union. The committee will also be assisted by Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, legal advisers to the Russian government.

Mr Gaidar said the committee would cover investment in a broad range of industries, but highlighted oil and natural gas, which pro-

Dalgaty moves up to £53.8m

By MARTIN WALLER

DALGETY, the food group that includes Golden Wonder, Kattomest and Winalot among its brands, raised pre-tax profits from £51.7 million to £53.8 million in the six months to end-December despite difficult conditions.

Sales rose 6 per cent to £2,013 million in the first half. The interim dividend rises from 7.15p to 7.50p, higher than some market observers expected, and the share rose 7p to 374p.

Maurice Warren, the chief executive, said the performance was "very satisfactory". Dalgaty was concentrating on the main core businesses of consumer foods, ingredients, distribution and agribusiness and on areas where it was strong. The search for acquisitions of the right sort, offering the benefit of synergy with the group's existing operations, was continuing.

Fundraising close at Chelsfield

By MATTHEW BOND

PLANS for a £200 million fundraising by Chelsfield, the private property company run by Elliott Bernard, are well advanced, with the documentation at or near the final draft stage.

BZW and Nomura, the investment banks, are working on the exercise, which is expected to involve more than £100 million of senior debt, £50 million of loan stock and about £50-60 million of equity. As part of the fundraising, Mr Bernard has pledged to take the group public, in a move that would cut his personal stake from 80 per cent to about 50 per cent.

A fundraising exercise of this size will be a significant test of the property finance market, which can see some renewed signs of activity in the underlying property market but at levels well below the peaks of three years ago.

Whether Chelsfield's quote is achieved by flotation or a reverse takeover of an existing

West German economy shrinks

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank has confirmed that the west German economy, the engine of growth in Europe, shrank 0.5 per cent in real terms in the final quarter last year, its third successive quarter of contraction.

Despite what is recession on the widely-accepted definition of two consecutive quarters of negative growth, the central bank gave no hint of any early lowering in German interest rates that would allow other European economies, including Britain, to undertake monetary easing.

In its monthly report, out yesterday, it rejected the idea that there was any direct link between pay settlements and monetary easing. The trend for German interest rates would depend on inflationary expectations.

"Despite the weakening of the economy, the trend towards higher prices has hardly diminished," the report said.

The Bundesbank reiterated its concern about high wage demands, which it said was a serious threat to price stability, growth and jobs. Upward pressure on domestic prices continued unabated in January.

The slowing in the annual rate of inflation to 4 per cent from 4.2 per cent in December reflected lower import prices and a weaker dollar, the report said.

The Bundesbank and the Bonn government say that the economic decline in west Germany is not a recession, but a return to more normal activity levels after the unification-driven boom.

The authorities have focused on year-on-year comparisons, which still showed a rise of 1 per cent last quarter compared with the final quarter of 1990. But the report confirmed last week's forecast by the DIW economic institute that GNP contracted half a point in the final quarter.

Eckhard Corneli, chief economist at Bank Julius B&R in Frankfurt, which expects GNP to show year-on-year shrinkage in the second quarter this year, said Germany was in recession.

After tightening the monetary reins before Christmas, the Bundesbank is expected by most forecasters to wait until the second half of this year before easing, despite concern about recession. It acknowledged that weaker domestic demand would accompany slacker demand from other western industrial nations.

The Bank of Japan and America's Federal Reserve sold dollars for yen in Tokyo yesterday to push down the American currency across the board. Intervention came at when the dollar was about 128.22 yen.

Royal jelly firm's founder queen bows out

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

IRENE Stein, above, the founder of Regina Health & Beauty Products, the company that markets royal jelly, has sold her entire 8.65 per cent shareholding in the company for £97,079.

Mrs Stein, who received a fraction over a penny per share for her stake, resigned from the company in November 1989 after an acrimonious

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Fundraising close at Chelsfield

By MATTHEW BOND

PLANS for a £200 million fundraising by Chelsfield, the private property company run by Elliott Bernard, are well advanced, with the documentation at or near the final draft stage.

BZW and Nomura, the investment banks, are working on the exercise, which is expected to involve more than £100 million of senior debt, £50 million of loan stock and about £50-60 million of equity. As part of the fundraising, Mr Bernard has pledged to take the group public, in a move that would cut his personal stake from 80 per cent to about 50 per cent.

A fundraising exercise of this size will be a significant test of the property finance market, which can see some renewed signs of activity in the underlying property market but at levels well below the peaks of three years ago.

Whether Chelsfield's quote is achieved by flotation or a reverse takeover of an existing

West German economy shrinks

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank has confirmed that the west German economy, the engine of growth in Europe, shrank 0.5 per cent in real terms in the final quarter last year, its third successive quarter of contraction.

Despite what is recession on the widely-accepted definition of two consecutive quarters of negative growth, the central bank gave no hint of any early lowering in German interest rates that would allow other European economies, including Britain, to undertake monetary easing.

In its monthly report, out yesterday, it rejected the idea that there was any direct link between pay settlements and monetary easing. The trend for German interest rates would depend on inflationary expectations.

"Despite the weakening of the economy, the trend towards higher prices has hardly diminished," the report said.

The Bundesbank reiterated its concern about high wage demands, which it said was a serious threat to price stability, growth and jobs. Upward pressure on domestic prices continued unabated in January.

The slowing in the annual rate of inflation to 4 per cent from 4.2 per cent in December reflected lower import prices and a weaker dollar, the report said.

The Bundesbank and the Bonn government say that the economic decline in west Germany is not a recession, but a return to more normal activity levels after the unification-driven boom.

The authorities have focused on year-on-year comparisons, which still showed a rise of 1 per cent last quarter compared with the final quarter of 1990. But the report confirmed last week's forecast by the DIW economic institute that GNP contracted half a point in the final quarter.

Eckhard Corneli, chief economist at Bank Julius B&R in Frankfurt, which expects GNP to show year-on-year shrinkage in the second quarter this year, said Germany was in recession.

After tightening the monetary reins before Christmas, the Bundesbank is expected by most forecasters to wait until the second half of this year before easing, despite concern about recession. It acknowledged that weaker domestic demand would accompany slacker demand from other western industrial nations.

The Bank of Japan and America's Federal Reserve sold dollars for yen in Tokyo yesterday to push down the American currency across the board. Intervention came at when the dollar was about 128.22 yen.

OFT ready to give Steetley ruling

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

The purchase of Sooner Snacks last week boosted market share in bag snacks by another five points to 20 per cent, adding to organic

Dalgely's Homepride operation benefited from inte-

YESTERDAY'S profits warning from William Fine will reinforce the view held by some that the party is over for food retailers. With Asda, Gateway and Budsens showing strain, some people are scrutinising the stronger competitors, Safeway, Tesco and Sainsbury for weakness.

Low's difficulties stem largely from its aggressive pricing policy implemented last year when it froze prices, apart from cigarettes and fresh produce, and then supported this with promotional

porous setback for a group that has had a strong reputation as a retailer. County NatWest is looking for full-year profits of £21.7 million, having revised its forecasts down from £29.2 million.

The new numbers put the shares, down 36p at 124p, on 8.8 times earnings, in line with expectations for the profits warning. They are unlikely to fall further but the City will want to see evidence that the difficulties are temporary and can be overcome before they go much higher.

James Miller, Low's chairman and chief executive, is adamant that this is a temporary setback for a group that has had a strong reputation as a retailer. County NatWest is looking for full-year profits of £21.7 million, having revised its forecasts down from £29.2 million. The new numbers put the shares, down 38p at 224p, on 8.8 times earnings, in line with expectations before the profits warning. They are unlikely to fall further but the City will want to see evidence that the difficulties are temporary and can be overcome before they go much higher.

BY OUR CITY STAFF

An international plan to compensate the creditors of BCCI worldwide is expected to be announced soon, banking sources in London said.

□ **Frankfurt** — The 30-share DAX index closed only 4.5 points higher at 1,681.07, near the top of a mere five-point range.

□ **New York** — Wall Street

577p 10p N/P (205)	31 -3
Clarin Foods 5p N/P (60)	59 -15
Diamond N/P (39)	...
Senior Engineers 10p N/P (58)	12 ...
Whesco N/P (183)	64 +4

RANGES

BAA	577p (+12)
P&O	388p (+10)
Pink	705p (+13)
Bank Org	705p (+13)
Reuters	1156p (+21)
Securitor 'A'	847p (+12)

Reckitt Colman	558p (+11p)
FAILS:	
J Hewitt	121p (-16p)
Wm Low	224p (-38p)
SKF 'B'	987p (-12p)
Closing Prices..	Page 2

Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 90.3 (day's range 90.3-91.0).				
Mid Rates for Feb 17	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
Amsterdam	3.2333-3.2434	3.2375-3.2406	4 1/2 p-5 p	4 1/2 p-5 p
Bremen	59.15-59.34	59.19-59.31	5-6 p-5 p	5-6 p-5 p
Frankfurt	11.1656-11.1673	11.1671-11.1673	4 1/2 p-5 p	4 1/2 p-5 p
Hamburg	1.0764-1.0785	1.0775-1.0785	4 1/2 p-5 p	4 1/2 p-5 p
London	2.6164-2.8820	2.8775-2.8804	4 1/2 p-5 p	4 1/2 p-5 p
Madrid	246.57-247.31	246.57-247.68	20-21 p	20-21 p
Munich	180.28-180.73	180.38-180.63	20-21 p	20-21 p
Nairobi	819.18-718.79	20.97-21.03	2-4 p-5 p	2-4 p-5 p
Montreal	2.1048-2.1188	2.1062-2.1086	0.50-0.40 p	1.17-1.03 p
New York	1.7720-1.7742	1.7725-1.7742	0.90-0.85 p	2.66-2.64 p
Osaka	11.4765-11.2903	11.2741-11.2857	4 1/2 p-5 p	4 1/2 p-5 p
Paris	9.7925-9.8124	9.7942-9.8060	4 1/2 p-5 p	4 1/2 p-5 p
Stockholm	204.18-204.31	204.40-204.36	4 1/2 p-5 p	4 1/2 p-5 p
Sydney	72.48-72.51	72.52-72.53	4 1/2 p-5 p	4 1/2 p-5 p
Tokyo	124.76-125.31	124.76-125.31	4 1/2 p-5 p	4 1/2 p-5 p
Vienna	20.23-20.27	20.24-20.26	4 1/2 p-5 p	4 1/2 p-5 p
Zurich	2.5969-2.5980	2.5971-2.5985	4 1/2 p-5 p	4 1/2 p-5 p
Source: Reuters			Premium: 3c	Discount: 3c

Bahian cruzero	0.6695-0.6775	Austria	11.40-11.50
Brazil cruzado	2605.04-2606.87	Belgium (Com)	23.39-23.55
Cypriot pound	0.901-0.911	Canada	1.1875-1.1885
Dong Kong dollar	1.7672-1.7675	Denmark	5.6780-5.6825
Green dracma	331.65-334.28	France	12.000-5.524.85
Hong Kong dollar	13.7642-13.7738	Germany	1.2323-1.2325
Indian rupee	40.01-40.41	Hong Kong	7.7545-7.7575
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5185-0.5245	Ireland	1.6581-1.6610
Malayan ringgit	4.3990-4.6070	Italy	12.910-1.2225
Mexico peso	2450-2520	Japan	126.90-127.10
New Zealand dollar	3.279-3.2825	Netherlands	2.2910-2.2935
Saudi Arabian riyal	24.50-25.50	Poland	1.5040-1.5045
Singapore dollar	2.9003-2.9055	Portugal	1.2000-1.2005
S. Africa rand (m)	6.4004-6.5276	Singapore	1.5240-1.5245
S. Africa rand (com)	4.9601-4.9883	Spain	101.75-101.95
U.S.A. dollar	6.5-6.50	Sweden	5.8800-5.8850
Surches Bank GTE - Lyons Bank		Switzerland	1.4020-1.4025

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 10% Finance Mar 11									
Discount Bank of India	Overnight 10%	1 m	1 m	3 m	6 m	12 m	Week ending 10		
Treasury Bills (Mk-Buy): 2 m	10% 1/4	3 m	9% 1/4	6 m	9% 1/4	3 m	9% 1/4		
	1 m	3 m	6 m	9 m	12 m				
Prime Bank Bill (Dep)	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	9% 1/4	9% 1/4				
Banking Money Rates:	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4				
Bank of India	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4				
Overnight: open 10%, close 11%.									
Local Authority Depos:	10%	n/a	10%	10%	10%				
Sheltering CDE:	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4				
Dollar CDE:	4.10-4.05	4.10-4.05	4.10-4.05	4.22-4.17	4.62-4.5				
Banking Society CDE:	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4	10% 1/4				

ECOD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up date: Jan 31, 1992
 Jan Feb 26, 1992 to Mar 24, 1992 Scheme 1: 1.75%. Schemes 41 & 112: 12.01%
 Reference rate: Jan 1, 1992 to Jan 31, 1992 Scheme 41 & V: 10.713%.

Currency	7 day	1 m	3 m	6 m	Cal
Dollar	4 1/4-3 3/4	4 1/4-3 3/4	4 1/4-3 3/4	4 1/4-3 3/4	4-3
Demeter	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9-8
French Franc	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10-9
Swiss Franc	13 1/4-13 1/4	13 1/4-13 1/4	13 1/4-13 1/4	13 1/4-13 1/4	13-12
Yen	11 1/4-11 1/4	11 1/4-11 1/4	11 1/4-11 1/4	11 1/4-11 1/4	11-10

Settle: Open \$254.10-354.50	Close \$254.30-354.80	High \$254.50-355.00	Low \$253.80-354.80
Settle: Open \$254.10-354.50	Close \$254.30-354.80	High \$254.50-355.00	Low \$253.80-354.80
Sovereign: \$M \$24.25-45.52 \$W \$24.48-50	\$M \$24.50	\$P \$40.00-55.00 \$F 10.48-52	
Platinum: \$362.40 \$204.15	\$Bw \$4.15 (\$2.335)	\$Settle \$26.10-48.50	

Cheaper oil but not for long

Oil prices reacted badly to the botched weekend meeting of Opec with Brent crude weak in London all day after taking its cue from far eastern oil trades. The key influence, America, was absent yesterday. When traders return to their desks after the president's day break, further price falls seem inevitable.

Quota agreements signed at Opec gatherings are one thing. Far more important for price stability is the so-called quality of the agreement. On this score, last weekend was close to a disaster. The Saudis seem intransigent over their own quota of just below 8 million barrels per day and that alone will scupper any serious effort by others to trim their own output.

The oil cartel is a long way from achieving its target price of \$21 per barrel for Opec crudes, which usually trade at a discount to the more widely quoted (in Britain at least) Brent crude and the supply/demand equation suggests further easing—especially as the second quarter, when northern hemisphere demand tends to weaken, wears on.

Later this year, when demand picks up and some overall growth can be expected, the demand for Opec oil will probably rise to around 23.5 million bpd, slightly above the ceiling agreed in Geneva. But still the cartel faces problems of growing output from Kuwait as its oil installations recover from the ravages of the Gulf war.

Dividing the cake in an acceptable way will not therefore become any easier. Prices should begin to firm. But even this modest assumption may not hold though. Russia sorely needs hard currency and is granting export licences. It has the capacity, when it gets its act together, to provide a further damper on demand for Opec crude. For the moment, Iraq remains on the sidelines. Eventually Saddam must reach an accord of sorts with the UN and limited exports will begin.

However, the Saudi budget appears to imply a conservative attitude to output and pricing for 1992. According to analysis by UBS Phillips & Drew, the Saudi books could balance on present output provided Brent crudes average as little as \$16. This suggests that at some time this year, Saudi has room for shifting its position to take up any slack should prices be looking unacceptably weak. Overall therefore, any further price falls are likely to prove temporary.

Lloyd's hits back

Any unsuccessful corner of the economy is liable to find itself at the centre of a real or ersatz political row, at the moment. The onslaught on Lloyd's, started counter-productively by some self-serving Tory MPs, looks more artificial than most. Ten years ago, Lloyd's was awash with corruption, much of it bred by high personal tax rates and tax avoidance techniques. The stable door was progressively bolted during the Eighties, however, and London's unique insurance market is probably now as clean as it has ever been.

Yesterday's scandals have, however, raised ghosts of suspicion among some names over the huge losses incurred due to underwriting disasters. These are common to the world insurance industry in one of its worst ever cycles but have hit individuals harder at Lloyd's and have exposed some amateurish incompetence more suited to balmier days. The Rowland report points the way to business reforms needed to complement the regulatory changes already made. David Coleridge has nailed the most important canards launched over the past week. Unlike many real scandals, this deserves to be a nine-day wonder even in election year.

The recession has taken its toll of developers in the City and West End but Judi Bevan finds signs that the worst is over.

Walk down any central London street and the proliferation of "To Let" signs tells the same recessionary story. Capital values of City property declined more than 30 per cent last year. Many property developers are paralysed by debt, an unprecedented 40 million sq ft of unlet office space overhangs the capital, while big schemes such as Spitalfields and King's Cross are in limbo. At Canary Wharf, the Reichmann brothers' monument to the Thatcher era, the first phase has been 55 per cent let for months.

Despite the best views in London and succulent inducements from Olympia & York, tenants have been painfully thin on the ground. News that the environment department is to move there from Victoria has not come a moment too soon.

Yet, just as in the housing market, there are some straws in the wind that signal conditions in London's ravaged commercial property market will soon start to improve.

Geoff Marsh, head of Applied Property Research (APR), the independent consultant, is convinced that a turning point has been reached. "In prime City and West End locations there is now competition for good quality buildings. Business confidence has hit bottom and there are a number of large corporate customers in the market."

Mr Marsh was among the first to forecast the bad times. But the fact that rents both in the City and the West End have fallen to 1986 levels while landlords are no longer the avaricious, arrogant beings of the late Eighties, he sees as positive. Humbled by conditions, landlords have become much more flexible.

Many are starting to give a ten-year break clause in the traditional 25-year lease. Developers with a new building might even give a five-year break clause, although the upward rent review remains sacrosanct. Then there are rent-free periods offered as an inducement to tenants to move. Some companies will even take on existing leases. What, Mr Marsh calls, "ridiculous concessions" such as the ongoing "bribe" having to pay the landlord's legal fees "are quietly disappearing."

Although not all agents and landlords have been told, he said. But for recovery in market activity to be sustained, there will need to be a spirited demand from occupiers. As yet, this is patchy. But more encouraging than what one property owner described as "60 buildings chasing six tenants" is that in the past three months, landlords have faced up to the basic law of supply and demand. Rents have been axed.

The best example is in North Audley Street, Mayfair. Last November, Martin Myers, chief executive of



Small jets are better than no jets at all: Peter Hunt, chairman of Land Securities, is encouraged by the signs in the market

Imry, a property group, made the controversial decision to slash the asking rent on the 55,000 sq ft property from £58 a sq ft to £32. The move outraged other landlords, but just as intended, the strategy has stimulated interest and created a new rental floor. The word is that negotiations with a single tenant are nearing the final stages and a deal should be signed within weeks.

At APR, Mr Marsh believes that demand is intrinsically strong if a sufficiently attractive package is on offer. One example of a company taking advantage of the climate is Courtlands, which has said goodbye to its old-fashioned headquarters in

Broadgate, believes such moves are part of a discernible trend. "Tenants are consolidating. Those in three or four buildings want to move to one to provide a corporate culture and environment. Anything built before 1980 is now obsolete as far as big corporate tenants go. They are measuring space in terms of cost per employee and they want quality, service and value. It is no different to Sainsbury."

There is also a groundswell of demand from smaller occupiers. Peter Hunt, the chairman of Land Securities, said: "Since our annual report last May, we let little in the City or West End until October. But since then, we have seen some activity in the market and we hope this encouraging sign will continue." He is talking of relatively small lets from 11,000 sq ft downwards, but something is better than nothing.

The investment market is also perking up. Demand from British and overseas investors for good quality buildings has been gaining momentum since mid-1991. Knight Frank & Rutley, the estate agent, has reported a "resurgence of activity and confidence in the property investment market. This has led to a firming of yields, despite poor rental growth prospects."

This is not just estate agents' hype. In the third quarter of last year, investment in property came to £689 million, a jump of 25 per cent on the previous quarter and the highest level since the last quarter of 1989. While the Japanese have largely

retreated hurt since the purchase of half the Little Britain site by Nippon Life last August, there have been some modest investments by the Dutch, Germans and Middle Eastern companies over the past few months. Burton has sold a site in Oxford Street to Melosira BV while a German company has bought a 190,000 sq ft building on the City fringes from Norwich Union. Scottish Widows' purchase of Three Quays House from Capital & Counties shows British institutions on the prowl for select properties.

As ever, the agents are doing their bit to stimulate the market. In its recent World Rentals survey, Rich-

Securities picking up shopping centres in Salisbury and York three months ago. There is a general move to look for properties in towns with growth prospects. On the retail front, the recent sale of Mountleigh's Merry Hill shopping mall development in the West Midlands to Hammerson and the American O'Connor Group provided a welcome ray of light.

According to the Investment Property Databank, retail property was the only sector to show any increase in rents during December, while industrial property offered the best return. All this is not to say the property sector is out of the woods by a long way. In London, conditions remain sluggish to terrible.

"It takes five times as long to negotiate a deal these days," one landlord said. Not only is there 40 million sq ft of office space to let there are also planning permissions granted for another 53 million sq ft. So no one is suggesting a return to the mid-Eighties. The property sector traditionally lags the economy and until that shows a decisive move upwards, property men will moan.

The election is also clouding the issue. Many would-be tenants, here and overseas, are postponing a decision until they know the colour of the new government. When they do, and if they like it, the London property market could well see some pent-up demand. But it will only be for the best quality in the right locations. The rest will continue to gather dust for some years to come.

In the past three months, landlords have faced up to the law of supply and demand. Rents have been axed.

Handover Square moved to modern, purpose-built offices in George Street. Fears of disruption from the cross-London rail link partly inspired the move, but there was also a desire for more open-plan space. Carol Feltham, head of corporate affairs, said: "Refurbishing Handover Square would have been expensive and even then we would still have had to cope with those long, thin corridors."

Stuart Lipton, who heads Stanhope Properties, joint owner of

Demand from British and overseas investors for good quality buildings has been gaining momentum

and Ellis points out that average City rents of £37.50 a sq ft are looking good against £37.50 in Frankfurt and £36.30 in Madrid. Paris is now looking pricey with rents of £45.76 a sq ft. All of which must encourage European companies looking at London. One property watcher said: "London has a global position. It has the English language and it has the sophistication of services."

In the rest of Britain, the market has been less hard hit. Property watchers were intrigued to see Land

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

One in, two out at Schroders

TWO more analysts have resigned from Schroders, the merchant bank and securities house. Mike Betts, building analyst, is joining Goldman Sachs and Simon Roberts, engineering expert, is switching to fund management and joining Fidelity. Their departure will leave Schroders' UK equities team with only two analysts and three salesmen, covering oil, waste management and environmental stocks. Speculation that Schroders intends to pull out of the UK securities market is, however, wrong. Underlining the point, the firm has just appointed as head of UK equities, Douglas Gordon, formerly of Sheppards, where he was an equity salesman. He also worked at Hoare Govett and, for 20 years, Vivian Gray. "I started ten days ago and they resigned a few days after that," says Gordon, aged 41. "I was very sorry to see them go. My brief here is to build up a UK securities team and so we are now out in the market place looking for good people. There was a feeling outside the firm that there was no commitment and maybe that permeated into Schroder Securities as well, but I would hope that the mere fact that I have come here will now put a stop to it." In the short term, he will be looking to recruit six analysts and then the salesmen to complement them. Gordon is particularly keen on the leisure sector and capital goods industries. Gordon will report to Ivan Sedgwick, head of European equities.



RHS pruned

THE City's hold over the Royal Horticultural Society will, from today, be diminished. Robin Herbert, towering chairman of Leopold Joseph and Union Discount, remains as its chairman, but, after a ten-year stint as its treasurer, Lawrence Banks is to retire. Banks, aged 53, is a man who knows more than most about pruning and re-shaping, and that experience must have stood him in good stead in his other guise, as deputy chairman of Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, and chairman of its corporate finance division. Banks has presided over the RHS during the most sustained period of growth in its history. He will now hand over to Martin Slocock, a professional nurseryman. Banks' interest in gardening, although not professional, is both public and private. His home in Herefordshire, Hergest Croft, boasts a famous garden, complete with family arboretum. His wife, Elizabeth, is a respected garden designer whose restoration work has included Hampton Court, Arundel Castle and Goodwood. Of her new commis-

sions, the most challenging was, she says, the garden of the British Embassy in Paris, a large section of which is built on top of a car park.

PENGUIN has published the second edition of a paperback called *Management and Motivation*. One of the authors is a Victor Vroom.

Resilient tipplers

THE recession clearly has not affected the pockets of brokers working in the Lloyd's of London insurance market. Laurence wine bar, adjacent to the Lloyd's Lime Street building, and a popular watering hole, has just been sold to USM-quoted Courtyard Leisure for £390,000. Courtyard says Laurence's turnover of £450,000 has proved "resilient through the recession". Laurence, which opened in 1986, will increase the number of wine bars owned by Courtyard to five, all within the Square Mile. The others are Punters, Wynkyn de Worde, Griffin Gibbons and Benjamin Stillingfleet. Jonathan North, Courtyard's non-executive chairman, whose main job is as a partner — and head of the company corporate department — at Cannons, the West End law firm, says the company is negotiating two other acquisitions — one a group of public houses, the other a group of restaurants, both in greater London. "We don't want to be too reliant on the City but we want the expertise of the group to remain within the M25 circle," he says.

CAROL LEONARD

Name of the game

From Mr J.M.H. Balcon
Sir, I joined Lloyd's in 1952, and have recently retired after 40 years as both a broker and, later, as a member's agency names director in a combined agency.

I feel that I must speak out on behalf of those hundreds of unnamed working names who look after their clients, if brokers, or their names, if agents, or their syndicates. If managing agents.

In my youth it was clearly understood that, if money was to be made in Lloyd's, then it could be done in a number of ways:

1. Build up your own portfolio of business;
2. Acquire equity in the firm for which you were working;
3. Raise sufficient capital to start your own business;
4. Become an underwriting name — in those days the numbers of external names were very much fewer and it was one of the perks of employment to become a name.

As a result, salaries per se were low, and profits from underwriting helped to raise one's living standards from modest to comfortable (I was, in fact, only able partially to educate my children privately).

The boom in membership was largely brought about by large numbers of grossly overpaid people, in all walks of life, being persuaded by a very small number of unscrupulous agents that, protected by "stop loss", you could not lose at Lloyd's, and it was a marvellous way to use one's capital resources twice (sic).

Our own approach, as a firm, was: "The one thing we can guarantee you is that you, at some stage, will be writing us a cheque!"

Yours faithfully,
J.M.H. BALCON,
The Grey House,
Seal, Kent

Insiders just as susceptible to Lloyd's losses

From Mr D. Forsey

Sir, The current hue and cry about further irregularities at Lloyd's is as usual, in my opinion, uninformed and terribly damaging to the market.

My colleagues and I are responsible for running a highly successful Lloyd's reinsurer broker; I presume therefore we are so-called insiders. Ask my chairman about the "huge profits" he has made for 1989 and 1990, ask all my colleagues. Many working name friends have suffered huge losses. Very often because they have worked their way up, they have not the capital resources to absorb these losses. Normally outsiders have.

When I and my colleagues

place business with an underwriter we are never influenced by whether or not we are a name on that particular syndicate. It is our job to complete the risk for our client wherever we can. In any event business that we perceive to be good or bad is not necessarily viewed that way by underwriters.

Lloyd's is a market place, there are both profitable and unprofitable underwriters; all the regulation in the world (external or not) cannot avoid that. They are remunerated partly on a profit commission basis that is good commercial sense.

The profit commission can only be calculated long after the end of the year in question when maybe the cycle has

turned; a fact of life. A high percentage of the loss making syndicates underwriters' remuneration is for profits on back years; you will find most of them no longer have a job.

It is simply not true that working names have avoided loss-making syndicates. Richard Outhwaite's syndicate had one of the highest proportion of working names in the market.

Indeed it is largely due to the influence of working names that the action committees were formed.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FORSEY
(Deputy Chairman),
Meacock Samuelson & Devitt
Limited,
100 Whitechapel, E1.

Problems remain

From Mr R.I.M. Overend

Sir, The names on the 1982 Outhwaite Action Group should be congratulated for their substantial victory against the Outhwaite syndicate and others.

It must, however, be stated that it is very sad that Outhwaite 1982 names who are not involved in the settlement will receive no compensation and will continue to suffer for years to come.

The above must lead one to conclude that from now on action groups will swell in numbers and litigation within the community of Lloyd's will be a way of life.

This further reinforces my views that the Rowland task force has not tackled the basic problems with Lloyd's, and the future of this once great institution must now be brought into question.

Yours faithfully,
R.I.M. OVEREND,
Kiln Cottage, Bottrills Lane,
Chalfont St Giles,
Buckinghamshire.

Working names realise the risks

From Mr J.C.R. Kelly

Sir, I am working member of Lloyd's and not a member of the 1982 Outhwaite syndicate, and have firm views on the matter. However, due to adverse publicity of Lloyd's by the media, mainly due to the 1988, 1989 and 1990 results, the following should be mentioned in respect of the Outhwaite 1982 year result:

1. Names were insisting on joining the syndicate in 1981 for the 1982 year because Mr Outhwaite was flavour of the moment and the man to follow for the future.
2. Mr Outhwaite I believe quoted a great number of these run-off risks. Orders were received for 32 but twice this number were declined due to the terms being too expensive, in the opinion of the prospective purchasers.
3. Names having an equal share on the syndicate since it started and still participating today have made an overall profit bar the "open year" of 1982.

Under reaction followed by

over reaction benefits very few. Commonsense backed up by positive action should prevail but this unfortunately rarely happens, especially in Britain.

If the market agreement occurs with regard to the 1982 Outhwaite syndicate then the majority of names will incur additional losses. Also for 1988, 1989 and 1990 years there are a number of working names who have suffered substantial losses and I have not heard them whingeing as they realise they are in a risk business.

It would be much more beneficial to Lloyd's and the country to address the Task Force recommendations and go forward positively. We are all aware of the mistakes of the past. Even so the London insurance market is still the largest invisible earner for the country.

Yours faithfully,
J.C.R. KELLY,
Lloyd's of London,
One Lime Street,
EC3

Council to blame

From Mr R.C. Dutton-Forsshaw

Sir, As a member of the Outhwaite Syndicate who out of mistaken loyalty did not sue his underwriting agents, I should like to make the following points.

Your correspondent, Mr M.J. Langton, says in his letter of February 14 that the Outhwaite settlement is unfair and that the Council of Lloyd's should have allowed its legal responsibility to names to be properly tested instead of arranging an out-of-court settlement.

The council is greatly to blame for allowing the present unhappy situation to develop whereby Lloyd's has many of its names joining action groups and taking legal action in the hope of recouping the large losses they have suffered due, mostly, to incompetent underwriting.

These actions should never have been allowed in the first place if Lloyd's had acted promptly in undertaking one of its main responsibilities to names, that is duty of care.

Instead of names being involved in expensive litigation, Lloyd's should have acted decisively on their behalf instead of being forced into settlement out of court.

If the only way of making Lloyd's act on names' behalf is by litigation, surely then this demonstrably negates the whole duty of care obligation, which is one of the main cornerstones of Lloyd's.

Yours faithfully,
R.C. DUTTON-FORSHAW,
Palladium Lock Farm,
Pulborough,
Sussex.

Letters to The Times
Business and Finance
section can be sent by
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27	Argus Plc	Crucible, Stn	1.12
28	Starhops	Property	1.12
29	Sistem Water	Water	1.12
30	Dyson	Industrial	1.12
31	Kingfisher	Industrial	1.12
32	Alston	Crucible, Stn	1.12
33	Macro 4	Electrical	1.12
34	Land Sec	Property	1.12
35	General Nat	Banks, Dpt	1.12
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37	Chubb-Schw	Leisure	1.12
38	Burmah Castl	Oil, Gas	1.12
39	Boosey Hovis	Leisure	1.12
40	Headam	Shops, Ltd	1.12
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Please make a note of your daily total for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

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Prices squeezed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 10. Dealings end February 21. Settlement day March 2. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices reported are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE

Go-anywhere wagons come to stay

The wartime 4x4 vehicles have evolved into fashion items.

Kevin Eason views today's models

Four-wheel drive vehicles, those go-anywhere multi-purpose wagons, are riding roughshod over British motor industry trends.

As sales figures plummet during the present recession and car dealers fret over growing stocks of unshiftable saloons and hatchbacks, sales of 4x4 vehicles are bucking the trend and rising. Last year, the total car market dipped by 21 per cent to a ten-year low. Sales in the sector for personal transport models, as Land-Rover-style vehicles are known, rose by 11.86 per cent, from 26,247 in 1990 to 29,371.

Other countries have jumped on the four-wheeled bandwagon. Sales in Europe have shot up by 77 per cent in the past five years, to 180,000 vehicles.

The wartime American Jeeps and lumbering Land-Rovers that started the fashion for vehicles capable of travelling almost anywhere in any conditions have been transformed into some of the most stylish and desirable models on the road.

The trend has its roots in the mud and thunder of the second world war. The Jeep was a brilliant if basic invention for the military. Stripped down to the bare minimum, the Jeep bounced its way into the affections of engineers world-wide — and none were more enthusiastic than the British.

Maurice and Spencer Wilks, the chairman and chief engineer respectively of Rover Cars, wanted to build a vehicle as a stopgap to keep assembly lines working at

their factory in Solihull, Warwickshire. The shortage of steel forced them to use aluminium for the body panels — and so the Land-Rover was born.

The Wilks brothers were not to know that the Land-Rover would become one of the world's best-known vehicles. In production for 43 years and setting a fashion followed enthusiastically by manufacturers worldwide.

At first, 4x4 vehicles such as the Land-Rover were work-horses, used for carting across muddy fields, crossing the desert along seared tracks or towing heavy loads.

That changed with the advent of the Range Rover, a brilliant innovation and another international marketing coup.

Off-road vehicles no longer had to be basic, according to the Range Rover philosophy. They could be as luxurious as any executive car.

Drivers who wanted a chunky 4x4 regarded the Range Rover as a car to be seen in. The vehicle looked just as much at home parked outside a wine bar it did buried up to its axles in mud at a point-to-point.

A Range Rover in the country is just as much a fashion accessory as the Barbour, green wellies and a labrador. In the city, its luxurious wood-and-leather style goes well with an evening dress and cape for a night at the opera.

In fact, 4x4s are no longer rugged, go-anywhere, rough-terrain wagons. They are leisure vehicles. Behind the Range Rover has come a host of imitators,



One for the rough stuff: four-wheel drive vehicles such as the Range Rover are invaluable in difficult terrain but have also become part of the smart city scene

from Mitsubishi Shoguns down to the clever niche product developed by Suzuki in the form of the company's small range of off-roaders, which have attracted younger buyers.

In Britain, Vauxhall has just started producing its new Frontera range at Luton, Bedfordshire.

Although most drivers have no intention of going further

off-road than mounting the kerb, they like the high driving position, interior roominess and load-carrying space, much greater than in a saloon, and the all-round solidity and feeling of safety that a bigger vehicle offers.

These vehicles have a versatility that saloons cannot match and traction that leaves conventional rear-wheel-drive or front-wheel-

drive saloons scrambling in their wake on wet or icy roads.

However, they are bulky, so most of them are less economical. Many manufacturers, particularly Mitsubishi, Audi and Subaru, partly answer the problem of matching greater traction to the virtues of small-car driving by fitting a saloon with four-wheel drive, to transform its road-holding capabilities.

Audi's quattro series convinced many drivers that a 4x4 capability adds an extra dimension to a road car, offering much greater stability and grip through corners.

The surge of interest may grow to the extent that most cars could become four-wheel drive soon because of the safety benefits.

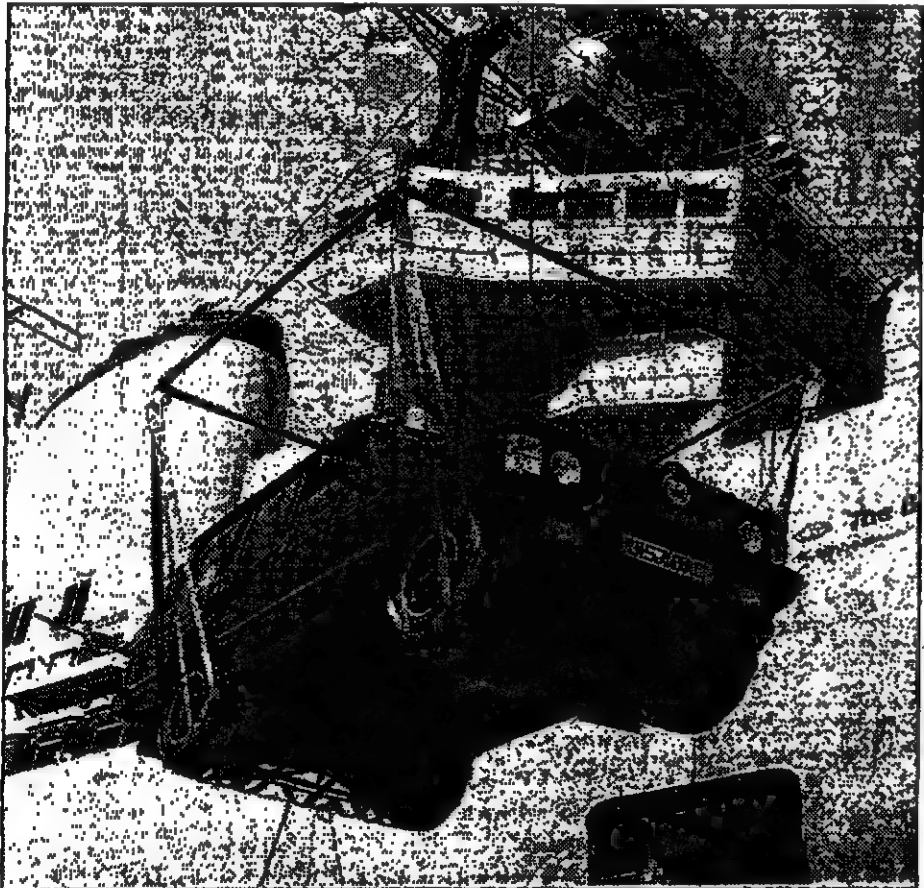
Alan Pulham, the director of the franchised retailer divi-

sion of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, which represents 12,000 motor dealers, says: "There is no doubt that four-wheel drive has an enormous contribution to make to safety on the road. It has been one of the most important innovations in mass-produced vehicles in recent years."

At this stage, there seems to be no end to the rise and rise

of the 4x4. Land-Rover says that 10 per cent of the cars on roads in the United States have four-wheel drive. A similar percentage in Australia has four-wheel drive.

Road space for drivers in Europe may be more restricted than in the US or Australia but the enthusiasm for a vehicle that has the ability to cross any track or tackle any hill appears to be here to stay.



An ambassador for Britain: the Range Rover Vogue is winched on board to be used by the captain of HMS Invincible for his official visits in overseas ports

Built for country drivers, adopted by townies

THE first British patent for four-wheel drive covered a seven-ton vehicle with a top speed of 5mph. Things have moved on since.

The idea behind four-wheel drive is simple enough but manufacturers all have their own way of putting the theory into practice.

Most cars transmit engine power to the road through the front or rear two wheels only. In rain, mud, snow or ice the vehicle with two-wheel drive is at a clear disadvantage.

When drive from the engine is transmitted to the road through all four wheels there is far better grip and traction. This is why even in ordinary dry conditions four-wheel drive vehicles feel so much safer when they are cornering and why most saloon car manufacturers, following the standard set by Audi with its quattro, now offer four-wheel versions of most of their products.

As well as permanent four-wheel-drive, specialised vehicles such as the Land-Rover and the Discovery use a transfer gearbox linked to the regular gearbox.

The system works like the Derailleur gears on a bicycle. The transfer gearbox, corresponding to the two cogged sprockets on the bicycle's chain drive, doubles the number of gears offered by the main gearbox, similar to the

cogs on a cycle's rear wheel hub. The transfer box means motorists have ten forward and two reverse gears in either high or low ratios. The high gear ratio is used for ordinary road conditions or long-distance driving.

Should you encounter some of the rough stuff just push over the high-low ratio lever

The weight and design of these vehicles can save lives in an accident

and by opting for low gears grip and pulling power are greatly increased.

Modern four-wheel vehicles also offer a differential lock. Engaging the lock involves pushing another lever and power is then distributed equally to all four wheels to minimise wheel spin and maximise traction.

Four-wheel vehicles have much greater ground clearance than ordinary cars, allowing them to cross ditches and cover ground that would leave other vehicles stranded on rocks or mud banks with wheels spinning.

Larger tyres with much

deeper tread are the final element in the formula, ensuring that the enormous amount of torque and drive available through the transmission is most effectively put on to the path or track.

There are drawbacks too, especially as so few four-wheel drive vehicles ever go off-road. The vehicles are heavy thanks to all the engineering being carted around and this is paid for in disappointing fuel economy.

Performance, too, is often lacking compared with even the most modest family saloon and the vehicle's bulk often belies the limited space available inside.

Four-wheel drive vehicles are also expensive. Prices start at about £20,000.

The array of switches, levers and gear stalks can overawe the uninitiated and the vehicle's sheer size can put off drivers. Such size, however, has its benefits. The vehicles are often fitted with crash and tow bars and in an accident the sheer weight and agriculturally derived design can save lives.

Whether such a vehicle is anything other than a fashion statement for most town dwellers is a moot point, but the drawbacks seem to be doing little to dent their increasing popularity.

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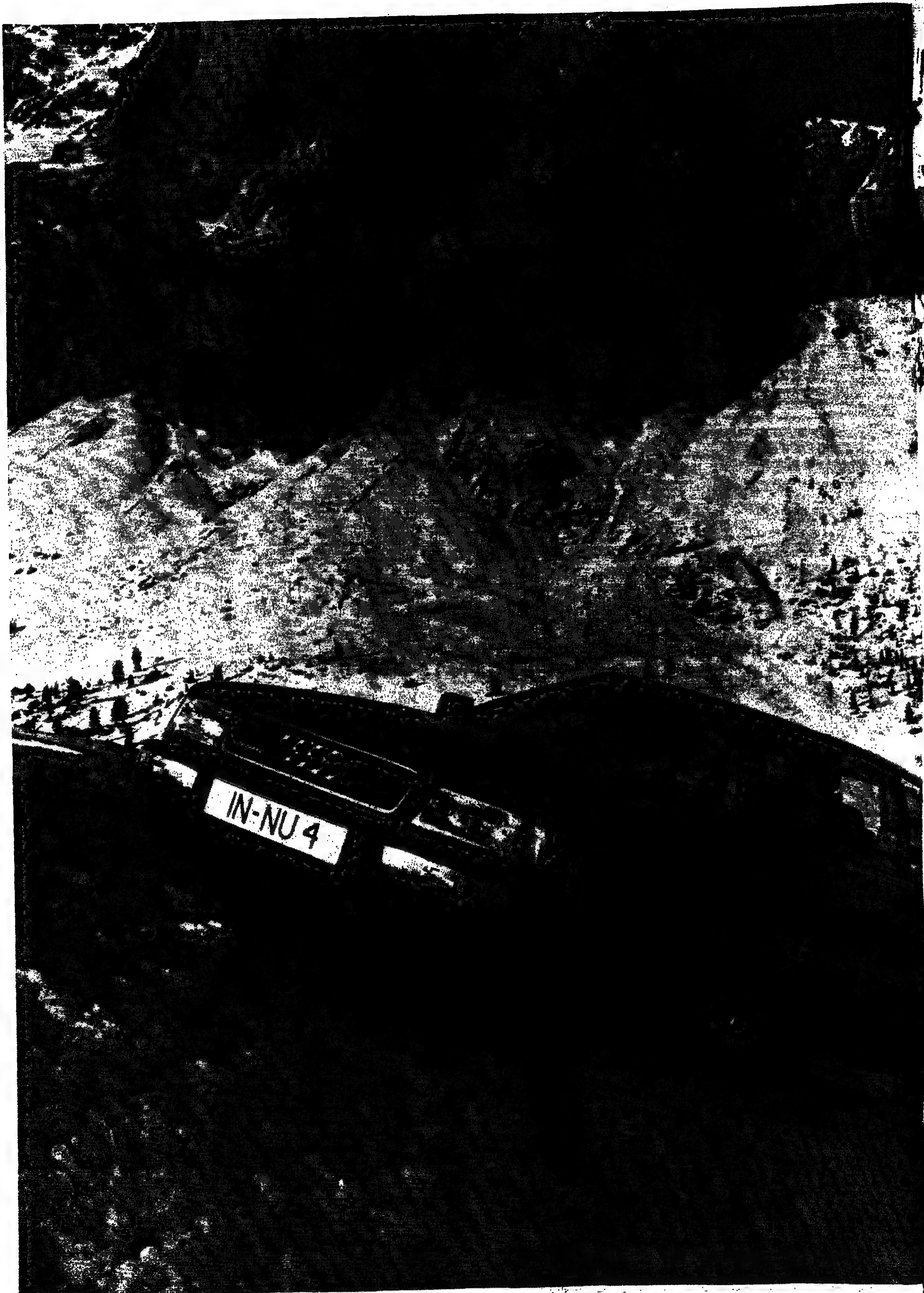
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Pick your model to match the terrain

Eric Dymock considers the vehicles that have survived early criticism

Trials by consumer organisations in the United States and tests by *Which?* magazine in September 1988 led to calls to ban small Suzukis and Daihatsus because the testers apparently confirmed that small Jeep-type vehicles do not handle like cars.

A good off-roader needs a lot of ground clearance, but tall on-road cars do not corner well. Four years ago, safety authorities said small four-wheel-drive vehicles overturned too easily, although later they had to acknowledge that they should not automatically be regarded as unsafe.

High-built cars fall over more easily than low-built ones, and suspension design has not yet defeated a high centre of gravity. Some four-wheel-drive vehicles are at their best off the road, others on the road. So the four-wheel-drive market is best divided into two sections — off-road and on-road.

There are also sub-divisions. Some off-road vehicles are mainly agricultural and practical, such as pickup trucks or construction-site vehicles. Others are luxury conveyances, for grouse moor and field sports fanatics, not farmyard and survey teams.

On-road four-wheel-drive cars are divided into those that have four-wheel-drive for active effort — pulling boats, small trailers or caravans into and out of muddy fields — and those with four-wheel drive for speed.

Off-road luxury vehicles are Isuzu Trooper, Lada Niva, Land-Rover Discovery, Range Rover, Mercedes-Benz G-Wagen, Mitsubishi Shogun, Nissan Patrol, Toyota



Challenging: Mercedes-Benz has tried to match the Range Rover for comfort

Land Cruiser, Vauxhall Frontera.

Off-road agricultural and practical: Dacia Duster, Daihatsu Fourtrak, Sportrak, Land-Rover Defender, Mahindra, Suzuki Vitara, Toyota Hilux pickup, Umm Al-Faruq, Volkswagen Transporter.

On-road practical: Audi 80 and 100 quattro, Citroën BX, Fiat Panda, Ford Sierra XR4i 2.0 EFI, Mazda 626 2.2i GLX 4x4, Mitsubishi Galant 2.0 GTi, Peugeot 405 1.9 GLX4, Subaru Justy and Legacy, Suzuki Swift, Toyota Celica, Vauxhall Cavalier and Calibra, Volkswagen Golf Syncro.

On-road handling and roadholding: Audi Coupé quattro, Ford Sierra XR4i 2.9EFI, Ford Sierra 2.0 RS Cosworth 4x4, Ford Scorpio 2.9 EFI Ghia 4x4, Lancia Delta HF Integrale, Peugeot 405 1.6i, Porsche 911 Carrera 4, Renault 21 2.0 Turbo Quadra.

In the off-road luxury class, the Range Rover remains the best, though at £35,910 the top 3.9 Vogue looks extravagant, and the G-Wagen is a formidable rival.

Mercedes-Benz has worked

hard to match the Range Rover for comfort and refinement. The G-Wagen was handed over from the truck engineering division to the passenger car department for new engines, less noise and a luxury interior. The vehicle still looks like something the military or the rescue services might use, yet it is as serene as a Mercedes-Benz car. The G-Wagen can wade through a stream a lot deeper than the recommended 60cm, pick its way over wet, rounded boulders, and then haul itself up a wet bank. It will tackle slopes of 40 per cent, steeper than the average staircase, and remain stable when tilted at 54 degrees.

Best value in the class is the Land-Rover Discovery, which has nearly all the virtues of the Range Rover at half the price. The cheapest, now £18,021, is the TDi diesel, which combines economy with comfort and longevity. When Nasa was asked to design a vehicle for Moon exploration, it produced the lunar rover. Extra-terrestrials given the same job for Earth

might devise a Land-Rover. Yet not everybody wants something so heavy or elaborate. People living on a hill may not want a vehicle that uses a lot of petrol. They need the extra grip on a slippery slope for only a few weeks in winter. At other times they want the comfort, refinement and economy of a car.

Subaru has one of the best answers in the new Legacy, as unassuming and anonymous as a small Volvo or a Ford Escort, with the refinement of both. Audi Coupés and Porsche 911s have four-wheel drive for another reason. Handling and roadholding are the essence of a sports car.

When the Audi came out in 1980 it was like a Range Rover built by watchmakers, making four-wheel drive a practical proposition for road cars by miniaturising a system that had previously been large and clumsy.

Audi's reward was not only to take the lead in international rallying, influencing the future design of rally cars, but also to establish a leadership in four-wheel-drive technology.

How Audi introduced the car that revolutionised the motor industry

Innovation that had to wait 30 years

FOUR-WHEEL drive had to wait more than 30 years from the Land-Rover's launch to be introduced into a family car. Ten years later, every large manufacturer has at least one version in its range.

The breakthrough came at the 1980 Geneva Motor Show, when Audi produced its first quattro and made famous the name that it uses for all its four-wheel drives.

Edward Rowe at Audi says: "That car revolutionised the motor industry and the attitude of motor sports and the motoring public."

Technical problems had defeated previous attempts to make this form of power transmission available on high-performance cars. Complex design, poor efficiency, greater cost and unimpressive performance had made four-wheel drive unattractive, at least for high-speed cars.

Even in the quattro there is a slight loss of miles per gallon because of the extra weight caused by the extra mechanical devices, although this is partly offset by the longer life of the tyres, as every wheel has less to do.

Production followed three years after the idea, which Audi describes as an unusually short time for a new model. An old Audi 80 was converted as a test vehicle in March 1977 and by November that

year it was tried on the roads. In the next year it was tested in severe winter conditions on Europe's steepest mountain road with summer tyres and no snow chains.

In 1978, firemen at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, near Munich, tested a hillside to produce a sea of mud. Toni Schmuckler, the chairman of Volkswagen, Audi's parent company, tackled the hill in several vehicles with different transmission systems. Only the four-wheel drive reached the top.

In 1979 Hannu Mikkola, the Finnish international rally driver, said he would drive the car in rallies.

The car was introduced to Britain in spring 1981 with left-hand drive and in December that year with right-hand drive.

Audi now has at least two four-wheel-drive models in every range. Mr Rowe says: "Its advantages are not just in

poor weather but everyday driving conditions. It gives more adhesion and better balance. Safety takes two forms, passive and active. Passive safety is the protection a car gives you after everything else has failed. Active safety is avoiding the accident in the first place. Four-wheel drive is in the active category."

Because there are more mechanical devices on a four-wheel drive, introducing it into passenger cars became possible only when drive shafts could stand the additional loading and a differential could be incorporated into a conventional manual gearbox.

Audi aimed originally to produce 400 cars, mainly for sporting events. The vehicle did so well in competitions, achieving four international rally victories in its first year, that the idea caught on

among the general motoring public.

Mr Rowe says: "Many car sport enthusiasts dismissed the quattro as good only in rallying on loose gravel and snow, but we believed it had an advantage under all conditions."

More than 11,000 four-wheel-drive Audis have now been built. Britain is the largest export market, having bought more than 2,500.

Oddly, it is particularly popular in London with those wanting a high-performance car and in central Scotland, where it copes with the harsh climate.

About 20 per cent of Audis sold are four-wheel-drive cars, although the ratio varies across the range. The quattro version is more popular in the more expensive, higher-performance cars.

Mr Rowe says: "We expect the quattro to make a big move forward this year when we launch an automatic version. Previously all the quattros had manual gear change but further up the range there is greater demand for automatics."

He is referring to the Audi V8. He says: "It impresses even drivers who previously considered automatics too little fun."

RODNEY HOBSON



The car that started it all: the Audi 80 2.8E quattro is a modern version of the first four-wheel-drive model

New models are competing, but even low prices do not always attract the customers

Hard time for newcomers

Parvenus in the world of four-wheel drive do not have an easy time, *Eric Dymock writes*. Unless they can show some advantage in style or price, customers who have bought Land-Rovers for generations are resistant.

The more rustic of them do not attract car tax, so some, such as the Mahindra, from India, start at a modest £8,599. The Mahindra is a throwback to an earlier era. It is based on the CJ3B Jeep, and is made under licence from Willys-Overland, of the United States, which was responsible for half of the 640,000 Jeeps manufactured between 1941 and the end of the second world war.

As with the companies that make the Enfield and the Morris, Mahindra started with Jeeps built from imported kits of parts, progressing to manufacture long after the original maker had turned to better things. Changes were inevitable. The original US Army quarter-ton 4x4 could manage only 55mph on its 2.2-litre side-valve engine. The Mahindra has an overhead-valve Peugeot diesel of about the same horsepower but it is higher-revving and manages a noisy 75 mph.

The bonnet is taller to accommodate the larger engine, the wheel base is longer than on the old Jeep, and there is a fourth gear. It has the same drum brakes, but no diff locks like modern sophisticated four-wheel drives, and there are few concessions to comfort.

The suspension is firm and the steering heavy. It slops through mud much as the old Jeep did, but makes a Land-Rover feel luxurious. Old-fashioned engineering demands old-fashioned servicing, and the Mahindra needs greasing and oiling every 3,000 miles.

Many of its rivals are Land-Rover lookalikes, selling in limited numbers, such as the French Auverland A3, which costs from £8,995 to £9,650 and is available as a pickup, with soft or hard top. The Romanian Dacia Duster is something of a bargain at £7,151, and although it had quality problems when first imported in the mid-1980s, it gained a reputation for rugged austerity.

The Portuguese Umm Al-Faruq has a strong four-cylinder



The throwback: the low-price Mahindra, from India, is based on the CJ3B Jeep

diesel engine, and 12 models are available through a network of 75 UK dealers at £10,192 to £13,834.

Vauxhall introduced a promising newcomer last year with well-established Far Eastern credentials, striking style and a competitive price. It is built at Luton in the old Bedford factory through a joint venture between General Motors and Isuzu.

The Frontera, similar to the Land-Rover Discovery in size and style, comes in two models — the short wheel base Frontera Sport 2.0i with four cylinders and three doors at £12,250, and the five-door estate with a choice of 2.4-litre six-cylinder and 2.3-litre diesel engines at £16,740 and £16,830.

The Frontera is technically forthright with a precise chassis, a steel bolted-on body,

four-wheel drive on demand, with automatically locking front hubs and leaf springs at the back, but is hardly of the calibre of the Discovery.

The part-time four-wheel drive makes the Frontera economical on the road. Although it has not the Discovery's exemplary off-road performance, it is a styling exercise of merit. The nudge

bars, fit tyres, and tough off-road appearance will be the main attraction.

One of the anomalies of the styling which the Frontera shares with many of its contemporaries, is the large spare wheel on the tailgate. Just when other makers are trying to get rid of it, anything with cross-country ambitions to hang its spare wheel in the outside, where the Jeep had it.

The Frontera makes it a styling feature, together with what is older generation of motorists will remember as the running board or step, a roof rack and large bumpers or "nudge bars".

The Frontera's off-road performance is good even with rock tyres, Dunlop SP Qualifier, whose tread clogs with mud instead of throwing it off as good cross-country tyres should. The Frontera has a useful turning circle for a four-wheel-drive car, but few inessential gadgets. The windows in the Sport are manual and there is a big back seat which folds flat, but otherwise not much luggage room.

Hooks in the floor for securing baggage are good, but the removable rear hardtop intended to turn the Frontera into a recreational beach-bug is a gimmick. It gains no prizes for practicality, although it may look good on sales brochures with tropical themes.



Vauxhall's offering: the Frontera, similar to the Land-Rover Discovery in size and style but lacking its calibre



Emergency call: the police need a reliable vehicle to meet every requirement

Police forces pick an old favourite

Land-Rovers from the Solihull plant are still chosen by most constabularies, but rivals are emerging

A salesman said: "We might draw the line at finding a Jacuzzi with gold taps." The remark did not come from an estate agent hit by a sudden attack of good taste but from a car salesman. He was discussing one of the Land-Rover range, vehicles that can be tailored to fit any specification by craftsmen at the plant in Solihull, West Midlands.

The unit ensures that the vehicles it produces for special customers are properly engineered and are safe and that the legendary reliability is not compromised.

Therefore, the Land-Rover range, hardly surprisingly, is still the favourite with Britain's police forces for motorway patrol and urban incident vehicles and mobile control and incident centres.

However, before a standard vehicle goes into police service it is passed through the special vehicle operations (SVO) workshop. The Discovery, the newest model, which accounts for most police orders, is converted into the standard police model by fitting an upgraded electrical system. This includes an additional battery, towing equipment, a calibrated speedometer, extra mirrors,

map-reading lights and pockets for collapsible signs. The vehicles can have further fittings, but it is a tribute to the inbuilt strength of the range that modifications to the braking and suspension systems are seldom needed.

Many forces specify a pneumatic expanding pole fitted behind and between the front seats, which raises the central roof accessory bar by more than 20ft to provide emergency lighting equipment. Winches can be added to the front of rear and inside, and sliding trays are mounted on aluminium runners for warning cones, signs, trolley jacks and emergency cutting and lifting equipment.

In the company jungle course at Solihull, police drivers are taught how to get the best from their vehicles off-road and how to use fully the range's towing abilities in slippery conditions. Police mechanics are also shown in the company training workshops how to keep the vehicles in perfect condition.

This comprehensive package particularly attracts police customers, but other four-wheel-drive vehicles are making inroads.

The Range Rover has become an expensive vehicle as it has been developed and is still widely regarded as the world's best off-road vehicle but many local authorities under pressure to cut budgets are seeking other vehicles for the role.

The most successful competitor to date is also among the newest. The Isuzu Trooper has the specification to appeal to police forces, and after a six-month evaluation the Leicestershire constabulary became the first to add the vehicles to its fleet. The force bought three for patrolling motorways.

Chief Constable Michael Hirst evaluated the competition before recommending the order to his police committee. Other forces will be watching the performance of Trooper in the hands of the Leicestershire force as they juggle their budgets.

The Trooper has already proved itself on the world markets and is rapidly becoming a familiar sight in RAC liveries, so the choice between it and its traditional competitors is not entirely price-driven.

DAVID YOUNG

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Sturdy defender in peace

Kuwait gave Land-Rover £8m orders after the Gulf war, writes Rodney Hobson

Even the chill winds of war can blow somebody some good. The Gulf war a year ago gave Land-Rover a welcome boost to exports at a time when the recession was hitting the UK sales of all motor manufacturers.

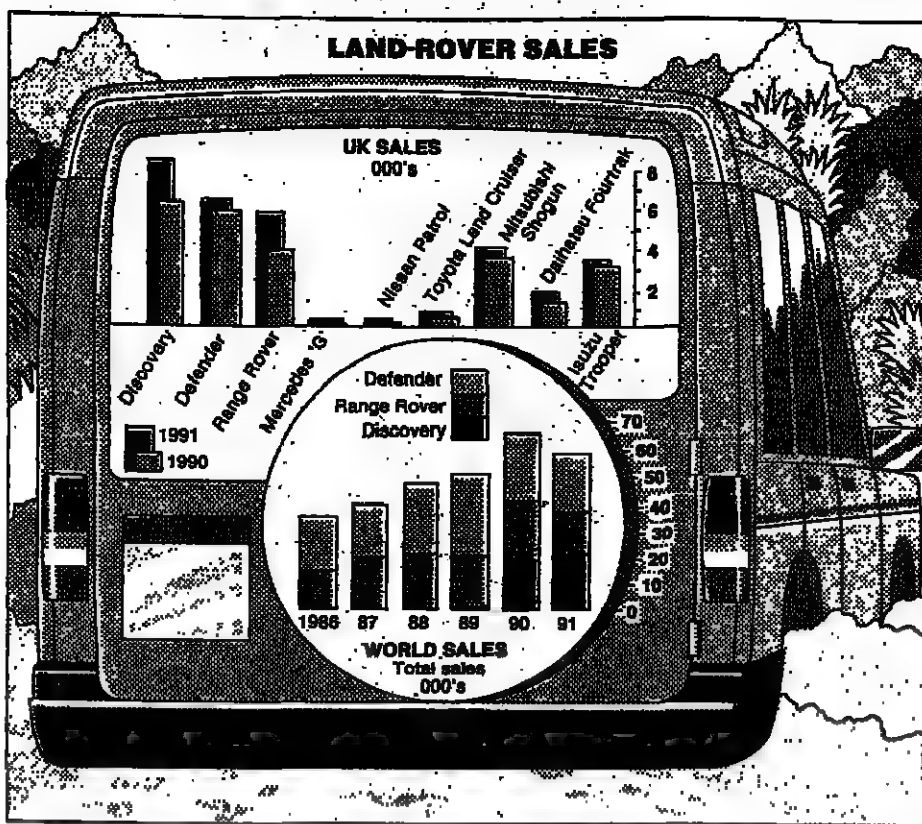
Nick Argent, a spokesman for Land-Rover, says: "When the Gulf war ended we took staff out from all parts of the business, marketing, engineering, mechanics and service support. We made a big push in the whole of the Middle East, particularly Kuwait."

Land-Rover was immediately rewarded with an £8 million order from Kuwait to supply more than 400 vehicles. During the whole of last year sales to the region reached 2,000, an increase of 40 per cent over the 1990 figure.

The vehicles for Kuwait were ordered by the defence and medical ministries for use on, ruined roads and in the desert. Orders were won in the face of competition from the Japanese and the United States.

Land-Rover did have an advantage. Its vehicles were popular with American forces during the war: for instance, they used the middle-of-the-range Discovery as a staff car. The more basic Defender was a key vehicle for British forces, who gave it various roles: from a troop carrier, to a transporter for sophisticated navigation equipment to a field ambulance.

Despite the Gulf war boost, worldwide sales of Land-Rovers fell 12 per cent in 1991. The 1990 peak of



66,185 vehicles was nearly double that of the sales achieved four years earlier and the 1991 figure of 58,335 was still higher than the 1989 figure.

Despite competition and improved technology available to other car makers, Land-Rover remains the only motor manufacturer that is dedicated solely to four-wheel-drive vehicles. Land-Rover is also one of the few mass producers to make a vehicle that is instantly recognisable from the halcyon days of the 1950s.

The Land-Rover was born in the post-war years when the ethos was to make products that lasted. Since then 1.5 million have been sold and the company estimates that more than a million are still running.

The Defender, the work-

horse version of the Land-Rover, still looks like the square-shaped vehicle that made its debut at the 1948 Amsterdam Motor Show. The technology has changed enormously in the years up to the launch of the latest version last year, but its makers still claim that it can venture into areas impassable to other vehicles.

Buyers now have a greater variety of choice: hard or soft top; station wagon or pick-up; petrol or diesel. But it is still the vehicle for carrying loads of hay around a farm or taking a group of ten people on an outward-bound course.

The middle-range vehicle, the Discovery, was first sold in 1989, when little more than 1,000 were made. British drivers took 920 and

168 were exported to Italy. Unlike the Defender, it is designed primarily for the road and has to be a little less basic.

Improvements have been offered on the 1992 model. A five-door version has been added to the original three-door, fuel injection has been made available for higher performance, and the gearbox has been improved to make changing to first and second gears lighter.

Mr Argent says: "The Discovery is in the leisure market. Typical users are a couple in their thirties or early forties with two or more children. They lead an active life and want to tow a horse-box or a boat, or have somewhere to store their windbreakers."

Top of the range is the Range Rover, launched 22 years ago. Mr Argent says: "It

remains virtually unchallenged at the luxury end of the four-wheel market. Since the mid-1980s it has been firmly placed as a vehicle for the managing director or chief executive looking for something different."

Despite having the same pedigree as the basic Land-Rover, it has all the accoutrements expected in a luxury car, such as air-conditioning, leather upholstery, walnut woodwork, automatic transmission and anti-lock braking. The most expensive model, the Vogue SE, even has heated front seats as standard.

During the past five years there has been an extensive programme of change in all areas of the Range Rover, including the upgrading of the V8 fuel-injected engine from 3.5 to 3.9 litres and the re-engineering of the suspension to give better handling at higher speeds.

Land-Rover has sold vehicles at some time or another in virtually every country in the world, although it has a flexible attitude and is prepared to walk away if the hassle is not worth the sales.

The next big export push is likely to be in Japan, where the Discovery was well received at the Tokyo Motor Show. Mr Argent says: "We have played the Japanese at their own game. They identify a market and target a vehicle to sell there. We saw the Shogun and thought that we ought to be in that market."

Land-Rover already sells about 500 Range Rovers a year in Japan, a small figure that the company hopes will be boosted by the Discovery.

Mr Argent says: "We see potential for niche markets in Japan. It is not the easiest place to get into but it is getting easier. Tokyo may have its traffic problems but the country still has some of the fastest cars in the world."



All-purpose: Denzil McNeelance finds his Land-Rover 90 equally good in traffic

More than just a smart accessory

Sales of Range Rovers have reached a new high

ALMOST HALF of all new Range Rovers are sold within the M25 orbit and only a fraction of those ever venture off-road.

Last year the four-wheel drive sector saw sales hit an all-time high even though the new car market suffered an overall slump of 21 per cent, *Vaughan Freeman writes.*

While it makes sense for farmers or mountain rescue teams to use four-wheel drive, what makes them so popular with motorists unlikely ever to fully exploit their rugged capabilities?

Chris Halsey, technical director of the Designers Guild, says his F-registered silver Range Rover is family transport for Sheila, his wife, and children. Tom and Lauren. The vehicle towers above the other cars parked in their terraced south London street. Is it not a bit too much for just tooling around town?

Mr Halsey, a former Saab driver, realised the time had come to move away from conventional saloons when the arrival of a dog, named Poppy, made the family five.

"We needed then to move to a station wagon sort of vehicle, particularly since we go away quite a lot at weekends. The idea of a Volvo estate or something like it

didn't appeal. We hadn't thought of a Range Rover, and don't need one to drive off-road."

"But it is fairly indestructible, comfortable, bikes and skateboards can be thrown in the back without messing it up, an agricultural type vehicle is ideal from that point of view."

Mrs Halsey enjoys the power-steering and the high driving position which make driving in town easy, with the bonus that other drivers tend to back off if it comes to a squeeze for space. They also like the security in the wet and on corners that the permanently engaged four-wheel drive offers.

MR AND MRS Halsey say the Range Rover image, however defined, is not an important factor, although they enjoy its idiosyncratic, even dated, barn-door styling.

Freelance photographer Denzil McNeelance uses his fire engine-red Land-Rover 90, a short wheelbase turbo diesel, for work, shopping and weekends away. Welded behind the two front seats is a steel padlocked box full of camera equipment.

Mr McNeelance makes no apologies for his choice of wheels. "I suppose I'm a bit of a poser." Since buying, however, considerations have come to outweigh the "street cred" value of his car. He says: "I could have bought an ordinary van for the basic £10,000 asking price of the 90. There was nothing else I could buy for that price that excited me."

Speaking after a day photographing oak trees in a forest, he says: "Without the Land-Rover we would have been walking. In town, the power-steering helps parking and the driving position is like sitting on somebody's shoulders."

"One other advantage is that where I used to get tense and fraught in traffic, the diesel engine slows you down and relaxes you and whereas in an ordinary car you have to be aggressive to get anywhere, you just have to look aggressive in this."

Drawbacks include fuel consumption of only 22mpg and a top speed of around 70mph. Set against that, residual values of such cars are hard to beat. Mr McNeelance, whose other car is a 1964 Jaguar MkII, says: "I suppose a Ford Fiesta would do the same job but it wouldn't be the same and I can't imagine getting rid of the Land-Rover whatever else I might drive."

Rumbling in the jungle

Owners can learn how to make the most of their pride and joy, while not ruining the countryside

For most town dwellers going off-road means negotiating a bomb site, a parking lot or a greasy car wash forecourt.

The permanent four-wheel drive of most off-road vehicles is perfectly adequate for almost all road and weather conditions, but many owners want more from their four-wheel drive vehicles. However, the capabilities of their vehicle often outstrip their driving ability.

Many manufacturers now offer training schools for owners wishing to get more from their pride and joy. One such course is with Land-Rover at the firm's Jungle Track, located at its Solihull production site.

So how do you drive off-road? The four-and-a-half mile Jungle Track boasts water troughs, concrete steps, gravel and mud traverses, and a Borneo jungle path, made of tree trunks lashed together and very slippery.

I took a Land-Rover Discovery TDI on the track which is so challenging. It is used to weed out candidates hoping to qualify for the Camel Trophy rally.

Land-Rover's four-wheel

drive expert, Don Green, gives three main strands of advice.

First, when faced by a road or conditions likely to challenge any ordinary car, push over the short stubby lever. This allows the differentials to be locked and the transfer box to be engaged on the move. Also select the low ratio gears. The jargon translates into a vehicle that will conquer the steepest hills while apparently defying gravity in the process.

Second, hills should be attacked in second gear and descended gently in first. Third, tuck your thumbs away as if feeding out a kite string so that you cannot hook them into the steering wheel. This way, if the front wheels kick back after hitting an obstacle and spin the steering wheel, you will not dislocate a thumb.

Also keep the windows shut in thick bush. The danger here, is that branches bent back by the vehicle will whip-lash and can slash arms.

The temptation on the flat is to go much faster than is safe. The trick is to go steady, watch your route carefully for

obstacles and if necessary stop the vehicle and reconnoitre on foot.

While going up hills is mostly a charge, coming down requires self control. The temptation is to dab the brakes, which could lose you control. If necessary, fold your legs beneath the seat to resist touching pedals and let the vehicle do the work.

Most daunting is fording deep waterholes without stalling or flooding the engine. You must maintain enough speed to create a smooth, gentle bow wave which pushes water out of the way. This also creates a vacuum at the rear of the engine, which prevents water flooding in.

One forgotten aspect of off-road driving is protection of the environment. Nick Argent, a Land-Rover spokesman, says: "We are not only teaching people how to drive off-road but how to drive off-road carefully without destroying the environment."

The Land-Rover experience costs £90, and details are available from Land-Rover on 021-722 2424.

VAUGHAN FREEMAN



View across Dullingham Vale

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Constable Country.



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Russian claims her tenth Olympic medal

Smetanina steps up and rewrites the record books

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALTHOUGH there was no fanfare, no stadium and relatively few to offer her the acclaim she deserved, Raisa Smetanina yesterday rewrote an entire chapter of the Olympic record book. In the frozen forests of Les Saixes, the Russian cross-country skier helped her Unified Team to a gold medal in the 4 x 5km relay and set a series of records that are may never be threatened.

At 39 years of age, Smetanina became the oldest female gold medal-winner in any sport at a Winter Games since they first started in 1924. The medal extended her collection to an unparalleled ten, comprising four golds, five silvers and one bronze, making her the most successful athlete of either sex. And most remarkable of all, perhaps, the relay victory made her the first woman to win a medal at five consecutive Games.

She may even return to add to her haul even further. Although, jubilant and exhausted, she announced her



retirement after the race ended, few were ready to take her at her word. For Smetanina has called it a day before. At Calgary in 1988, she won a bronze medal and said: "This must be the last one. I can quit contented."

Yesterday, she was still competing, still promising medals and still promising to bring down the curtain on her remarkable career. "These are my fifth Games and I don't think I will be at Lillehammer [in 1994]," she said. "Two years seems a long time to wait. Maybe I'll go there as a tourist."

Age will certainly have no bearing on her decision: Smetanina's birthday is on February 29, therefore happens only once every four years and, according to the Russian, means she will be ten this year.

"It is very hard to distinguish between the medals and rate one higher than any of the others," she went on. "It's always hard to win a gold and it's been getting harder. Today, I won mainly because of my team-mates."

Indeed, amid the celebrations, it was easy to overlook the fact that Smetanina was by far the slowest of the four Unified Team members and owed an enormous debt to her colleagues. It was also easy to forget all about Lyubov Egorova, who picked up her fourth medal of the Games and became its first triple gold medal-winner.

Norway came in 21.6sec behind for the silver medal while Italy finished in third place.

The previous oldest female gold medal-winner was Ludovika Jakobsson, of Finland, in the figure skating pairs of 1920.

Marja-Liisa Kirvesniemi, another Finn who, like Smetanina, is also appearing in her fifth consecutive Olympics, missed out on the sixth medal of her career by 27 seconds as her team finished fourth. Kirvesniemi, who as Hämäläinen in 1984 became the first woman to win three individual Nordic golds at one Winter Games, did not win any medals in her first two Olympics.

In the ice-hockey competition in Meribel, Germany qualified for the medal round yesterday with a 4-0 victory over Poland, relying on a strong defence and getting two goals from Ernst Koepf. Germany thus finished fourth in Group A.

It was a good day for the German Gunda Niemann won her second Olympic gold medal to match Bonnie Blair, of the United States, as the most successful female speed-skater of the Games. Niemann, aged 25, the winner of the 3,000 metres last week, dominated the 5,000m and led a German clean sweep of the medals.



Back again: Smetanina celebrates her latest cross-country medal yesterday

O'Reilly must be on guard

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN ALBERTVILLE

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that the four-man bob team might cover itself with glory on Friday and Saturday, the event in which Britain has the most realistic chance of a medal — perhaps even more than one — is today. This is short-track speed skating, an exciting spectacle introduced into the Olympics for the first time and capable of taking the Games by storm.

The British team includes the world champion in Will O'Reilly, the world 1,000 metres (today's distance) runner-up, Matt Jasper, and the world bronze medal winners in the relay, Archie Marshall, the British trainer, expects all

three to go through to Thursday's quarter-final involving six competitors.

O'Reilly has been drawn in a field of only three, the other two of whom are unpredictable Asians. Two go through but oddly enough, this is not a good draw, according to Marshall, "because it reduces Willie's options to surprise and that's one of his great strengths." Marshall explains that the leading contenders will be most vulnerable in this heat since "they are focused on the later stages of the competition and are apt to let their guard drop".

O'Reilly, aged 27, is one of the best tacticians, able to dominate a race from the front or the back by his sheer presence and personality. "He can skate right (close to the inside position). Marshall says, "and knows how to block fairly". The others know he is the man to beat.

Jasper's biggest problem "is that he doesn't know how good he is", his silver medal in the world championships in Sydney notwithstanding. "When there is no space he will still find it," Marshall says. "He could go out in a heat or 'strafe' through and then destroy anyone."

Nick Gooch, the third British skater, was a member of Britain's relay team in Sydney but, at 19, may lack the experience to be a challenger.

RUGBY UNION

French press is in a sombre mood as inquest begins

FROM PHILIP JACOBSEN IN PARIS

OF ALL the doleful headlines in the French press that followed last Saturday's controversial events at the Parc des Princes, it was *Libération* which best caught the prevailing mood of sadness and regret, tinged with bitterness. "Ah, if only the victory could have been more beautiful!" it exclaimed.

Like almost every other newspaper, *Libération* acknowledged that England fully deserved to win, and would have won under any circumstances — "but has there ever been a more deplorable end, a match more rotten, after such a promising start?"

Writing for the same pages, the distinguished former international, Pierre Villepreux, had harsh words for the "stupid aggression" of the French pack. "At this level, it is essential, for rugby and for the public, to select players able to understand the difference between what is and is not tolerable."

From the heartland of French rugby in the south-west came the influential voice of *Midi Olympique*, declaring in huge front-page type: "Never again like this!" In a signed editorial, Henri Naylor argued that while the responsibility of the referee, Stephen Hilditch, for what happened was "directly engaged" those shortcomings should not be allowed to hide the grim reality of what is wrong with French rugby.

"This is a moment of grave crisis and for exactly that reason we need to avoid persecutions and summary executions and be brave enough to confront the real

problems that have sunk French rugby so low..." Above all, *Midi Olympique* concluded, the nation's new rugby administrators must act quickly and decisively.

For the country's leading sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*, which devoted most of its cover and three full pages to the match, it was a case of "Hit or Sunk" for the French XV and also for the game at large. "Our team has lost more than a match. It has lost everything. Honour included," said a sombre editorial.

To *L'Equipe's* reporter, Henri Garcia, Hilditch's refereeing had plunged the game into "the worst disorder we have ever seen in an international," but the traditional French reaction to international defeat — hang the ref — provided no solution to a far deeper malaise in the game in France.

Last Saturday's young and largely inexperienced team was now cast as scapegoats for far more serious errors that had been committed over recent years by the men in charge of the game in France.

The "warlike" campaign in the British tabloid press ahead of the match had made it inevitable that French rugby would be under the magnifying glass on Saturday, Garcia noted. "But the French XV also paid for the faults of the French Rugby Federation."

To *Le Figaro*, the central issue now is to discover what is responsible for the "incomprehension" that persists in rugby between France and the British.

Tomba emerges for his defence

ALBERTO Tomba emerges from self-imposed exile in an attempt to retain his giant slalom crown in Val d'Isère today and become the first repeat champion in Olympic Alpine skiing history.

The Italian champion arrived by helicopter on Sunday from Sestriere, where he has spent the last two weeks apart from his brief foray to Albertville to carry the Italian flag at the opening ceremony.

Tomba, who plans to return to Sestriere after the race to prepare for Saturday's slalom title defence in Les Menuires, said staying away had helped to ease the pressure. As always, he is the man to beat with confidence-high after his seven wins on the World Cup circuit this season — the same number he achieved before his double-gold in 1988 at Calgary.

He needs no reminding

that the favourites have been consistently upstaged so far. "In the Olympic Games there are always big surprises, much more than in the World Cup," he said. "I've been out of competition for two weeks so I'm curious to know how I'll perform on the slope."

Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, has by contrast, been in the thick of the battle. After coming to grief in the downhill and combined downhill he broke his Olympic jinx by capturing the silver in Sunday's super-giant slalom.

Olympic organisers, relying on better weather ahead, confirmed yesterday that the postponed women's super-giant slalom in Meribel was expected to be staged this morning. The race was called off yesterday because of high winds and patches of dense fog on the 1,573-metre Corbey plate.



Curry: fourth in series

Country	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather	Temp (°C)	Last snow
AUSTRIA	40-180	good	open	snow	-3C	17/2
Bad Gastein	40-180	good	open	snow	-3C	17/2
Kitzbühel	60-110	good	open	snow	-1C	17/2
Mayrhofen	30-185	good	some	snow	-3C	17/2
Sölden	20-120	good	open	snow	-3C	17/2
Zell am See	75-195	good	open	snow	-4C	17/2
FRANCE	100-120	good	open	snow	-3C	17/2
Alpe d'Huez	100-120	good	open	snow	-3C	17/2
Châtel	40-130	good	open	snow	-4C	17/2
Monigeyre	50-110	good	open	snow	0C	17/2
Val d'Isère	130-210	good	open	snow	-1C	17/2
SWITZERLAND	110-140	good	open	snow	-10C	17/2
Arco	110-140	good	open	snow	-10C	17/2
Devis	140-210	good	open	snow	-7C	17/2
Gstaad	45-110	good	open	snow	-3C	17/2
Verbier	80-190	good	open	snow	-3C	17/2
ITALY	50-110	good	open	snow	-10C	15/2
Cortina d'Ampezzo	90-130	fair	low	snow	-1C	13/2
NORWAY	55-65	good	open	snow	-19C	13/2
Gaio	55-65	good	open	snow	-19C	13/2

Supplied by Ski Hottel. L and U refer to lower and upper slopes.

SCOTLAND: Cairngorms Skiing is still confined to top basin. Colts ne Glen is a complete but narrow. No skiing on middle or lower slopes. Cairngorms: Main Basin, Clonach, West and Pheasant all have reasonable cover. Possible skiing also on the very top of the mountain. Two chairlifts and button lifts open. Resort closed until Thursday. Glenelg: No skiing. The Lecht: All lifts operating by the end of the day. Mael nate runs complete but narrow and thin. Reasonable skiing on new snow. Nave rings: Five pistes complete with new snow on hard-packed base. Best skiing on Sunnart, Seavoyne and Fannich, with Waterns also skiable. Some beginner areas open but snow cover on lower slopes still thin. Glenelg and Glenelg open.

CYCLING

Kelly sprints to success in Valencia

By PETER BRYAN

SEAN Kelly, who breathed fire into the Tour of Lombardy last October to win the final classic of the season, obviously wintered well in Ireland.

His first victory of 1992 in Sunday's 123-mile Trofeo Luis Puig at Valencia demonstrated the strength he retains even though his 36th birthday is not far off.

It was a touch of the old Kelly sprint that got him first over the line from a pack of 40. He had been active in a seven-strong breakaway group, which included the Tour de France winner, Miguel Indurain, only to have the chance of success severely reduced when caught by the main pack of 30 half a mile from the end.

Kelly, now riding for the Spanish Lotus team, acknowledges that younger opponents are often faster in the sprint, but he took his chance 200 metres from the line to win by inches from Jesper Skibby, of Denmark, and Laurent Jalabert, of France, with inches covering the first ten finishers. Today, Kelly starts in the six-day Tour of Valencia.

SNOOKER

Costly setback for McManus

By PHIL YATES

MARK Bennett, of Wales, produced an unexpected 5-4 victory over Alan McManus in the fourth round of the Pearl Assurance British Open at the Assembly Rooms, Derby, yesterday following an unconventional build-up to what is the second-most lucrative tournament on the circuit.

After losing 5-3 to McManus in the last 16 of the Asian Open in Bangkok three weeks ago, Bennett abandoned practice completely. He was so disillusioned by his performance in Thailand, he said, that he lost

all enthusiasm for the game. McManus, by contrast, a dedicated, single-minded individual had been putting in a remarkable amount of work, realising that an extended run in Derby would significantly improve his chance of becoming the first player to earn a place in the elite top 16 after only two seasons as a professional.

Making no attempt to compromise his natural belligerence, Bennett yesterday cautioned to the winds as he established a 4-2 lead.

McManus, the "young player of the year" in 1991,

who went on to reach the final in Bangkok after beating Bennett, looked as if he might take his expected place in the fifth round when he levelled at 4-4. But he was unable to carry through this recovery.

Alain Robidoux, the world No. 13, produced an isolated 106 break during an unconvincing 5-3 win over Mark Rowing, of Doncaster. Silvio Francisco, the 1995 British Open champion from South Africa, beat Jason Smith 5-1.

RESULTS: Fourth round: M Bennett (Wales) 5-4 A McManus (Eng), 5-4 A Robidoux (Can) 10-6 M Rowing (Eng), 5-3 J Smith (Eng), 5-1.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Regal Trophy to include new teams

TWO French teams will take part in next season's Regal Trophy if plans discussed in Perpignan at the weekend between the Rugby Football League (RFL) and their French counterparts are implemented by the Rugby League Council (Keith Macklin writes).

In addition, there will also be a six-team European competition in January between two teams each from France,

Britain and the old Soviet Union. David Orley, the chief executive of the RFL, said: "We are told that there is a sum of £12 million in European Community funds which has been laid aside purely for the development of sport throughout Europe, and some of this money can be used to develop rugby league."

The proposed six-team tournament would be staged next year between January 7 and

17 at Carcassonne and Perpignan, with the final at Béziers.

The French federation is confident that in addition to European Community funds, sponsorship can be obtained for the tournament. Of the suggestion that two French sides should enter the Regal Trophy next season, Orley said: "The sponsors, John Player, are extremely keen on the idea."



Yarranton: praise

Australians having second thoughts

By DAVID HANDS

THE proposed four-match visit by Australia to South Africa in August may cause the deferment of retirement plans by leading Australian players, Nick Farr-Jones, who captained Australia to World Cup victory last November, and Simon Poidevin, the flank forward, may both amend their plans.

Farr-Jones said yesterday that he would decide later this month whether to stay out of the representative game this year, as planned. "The major factor is to say that my heart wants to play this year," he said. "But I have to decide whether my head and body will give that commitment."

Bob Dwyer, the Australian coach, who is now looking at a year of eight internationals, has not excluded any members of the World Cup squad from his plans. It also appears that rugby league will not make its customary raids on the Wallabies, not this

year at any rate. However, an international against South Africa may not affect the plans of several English players to retire.

It is widely anticipated that Wade Dooley and Mickey Skinner will join Peter Winterbottom in stepping down from international rugby after the five nations' championship, while Rory Underwood, Simon Halliday and Jonathan Webb are also likely to do so in the interests of their respective families and careers.

England plan to play South Africa on November 14 at Twickenham. Will Carling, the England captain, said yesterday: "I don't think South Africa will have a major effect. Some players have made up their minds that this is their last championship and the fact that the game is in November would virtually mean committing themselves to another season."

ound ideal blend

of which won the 1988 European under-21 championship, is not expected to reach full maturity until the World Cup finals in the United States.

Platini and Houllier, through circumstance as much as choice, have tried to marry natural French finesse with some of those Teutonic-type qualities which bantered them into submission in the World Cup semi-finals of 1982 and 1986.

"Michel is not sure if the old team of himself, Giresse, Tigana, Lacombe and the rest would be as successful today," Houllier said. "The game has evolved. Into a much more spectacular, as he says, the great side in which he played seldom won away. The new one may be technically less gifted but it is mentally and physically more strong - like the English."

Record crowd inspires Lens to a victory against the French league leaders

Marseilles shrug off defeat

ATHLETICS
**The golden girl
who may miss
out on a fortune**

Spon had brought her wealth which was probably beyond her imagination when she had been a kindergarten teacher earning £30 a month before the collapse of the system. Monte Carlo, home of the rich and famous, seemed an appropriate place three months ago for her to be receiving her award as the International Amateur Athletic Federation woman athlete of 1991.

IN BRIEF

Wembley keeps the Show

Late changes
Hockey: Bernie Cotton, the Great Britain manager, made two late changes in the party of 16 which leave today for Karachi to take part in the Champions Trophy tournament. John Shaw and Stephen Bailchior dropped out and were replaced by Chris Mayer and Som Singh.

Dorte runs

Flat start

Horse racing: Flat racing in the Paris region gets underway today at Saint-Cloud where Bruce Raymond renews his association with the John Hammond-trained Varesse in the Prix A Tempo over a mile. Raymond won of Varesse at Cagnes-sur-Mer last month.

Ripley's first

Rowing: Andy Ripley and Roger Uttley, the former England rugby union international, finished in first and second places in the senior masters section of the world indoor championships in Boston. Ann-Marie Dryden of Thames Tradesmen, won the women's lightweight event.

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ATHLETICS

PALAMOS, Spain: IAAF 1000m World Cup. Senior men's: 1. S Kenton (GB), 2:25.35 (world best); 2. D Casteran (Lea), 2:30.37; 3. E Seathorpe (GB), 2:30.53. Other British: 7. B Moore, 2:43.32; Team: 1. Germany, 2. Great Britain; 3. France. Senior women's: 1. N Sappagorova (USSR), 7:44.95; 2. M Viaz Trifonova (USSR), 7:53.50; 3. C Hunter-Rose (GB), 8:57.50.

RALLYING

STAGES RALLIES: Breckland Forest (Norfolk): 1. F Richter (MG Metro SR4), 10min 11sec; 2. S French (Escort), 50.40; 3. J Bird (Escort), 51.86. Halfmarathon: 1. J. H. Jones (Oscar), 1:01.45; 2. M Rogers (Escort), 42.02; 3. D Hope (Escort), 42.45. Cartholca (Sussex): 1. P. S. (Ford), 1:01.45; 2. J. H. Jones (Oscar), 1:01.45; 3. T Davies (Ford 807), 1:02.15.

TABLE TENNIS

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Outley-Pearson (Wales) beat Douglas (Wales) by 3-1 in final (Lancs), 21-18, 21-16, 21-16. Men's 5th round: 1. S. G. (Wales), 21-12, 21-12, 21-12. Women's 5th round: 1. S. G. (Wales), 21-12, 21-12, 21-12. Women's 5th round: 1. S. G. (Wales), 21-12, 21-12, 21-12.

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG LEAGUE: First division: Hermal Hestmark (Norway) 114 (Anglo 28), 2:25.35 (world best); 2. D Casteran (Lea), 2:30.37; 3. E Seathorpe (GB), 2:30.53. Other British: 7. B Moore, 2:43.32; Team: 1. Germany, 2. Great Britain; 3. France. Senior women's: 1. N Sappagorova (USSR), 7:44.95; 2. M Viaz Trifonova (USSR), 7:53.50; 3. C Hunter-Rose (GB), 8:57.50.

ICE HOCKEY

HEINRICH NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 2. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 3. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 4. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 5. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 6. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 7. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 8. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 9. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 10. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 11. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 12. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 13. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 14. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 15. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 16. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 17. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 18. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 19. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 20. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 21. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 22. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 23. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 24. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 25. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 26. Ayr Raiders 7, Cardiff Devils 3; 27. 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HERITAGE
Can Elgar's
cottage cope
with a visitor's
centre?



LIFE & TIMES

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LAW
Stephanie
Slater: could
she sue her
employers?

The Pit and the pendulum

The Barbican Centre is ten years old, next month. Richard Morrison looks back on its troubled genesis and argues that it epitomises genius and bungling

Why should we celebrate the tenth anniversary of an arts centre that was scheduled to open 20 years ago? Why cheer a place that, at one time or other, has been bad-mouthed almost into oblivion by the City of London (which built and owns it), the Royal Shakespeare Company, the London Symphony Orchestra (who perform in it), and the public — some of whom, despite the 123 entrances, still say they cannot find it?

One answer is that the public has found the Barbican Centre: 18 million punters have attended 22,000 events there. The LSO and RSC are still there. The City has given up moaning about the cost. And perhaps, one day, even bush-hammered concrete modernism will come back into fashion.

But there is a more profound answer. If we knock this building, we are in effect knocking the whole cultural history of post-war Britain. Its achievements and its traumas epitomise both our native genius and our native bungling.

The Barbican was conceived in the mid-Fifties by people with high ideals. There were 35 bomb craters north of St Paul's Cathedral. Why not, the minister suggested to the City, create "a genuine residential neighbourhood incorporating schools, open spaces and amenities?"

So the City did. But being businessmen, they left the "amenities" bit to the end. "An arts centre was the last thing that the City fathers wanted, in their heart of hearts," says Henry Wrong, the Canadian appointed in 1970 to run the Barbican Centre. They certainly never intended to start giving grants to performers.

Sir Edward Howard, a former Lord Mayor, led the opposition. He called the arts centre "the worst decision" taken in the City's 800-year history. He had a point. The original estimate was £8 million; it ended up costing £187 million. "Less than the price of a second-hand aircraft carrier," said *The Times* soothingly, on March 3, 1982, the day the centre opened — but the City was horrified at its own profligacy.

Building had been continually halted by long strikes. Intervention by such baroque bodies as the "London Regional Joint Emergency Reconciliation Panel" had proved unhelpful. The City had sued the builders. The builders had sued the City. The architects had sued the *Sunday Times*, and had threatened to sue Wrong for scuppering their novel idea: a cinema where people lay flat and watched a screen on the ceiling.

"It was a time of galloping inflation, huge industrial disputes, the building industry out of control. The City must have been outraged," says Baroness O'Cathain.

ain, the Irish businesswoman who followed Wrong as Barbican director in 1990.

The City did not make it easy for themselves. They chose as architects a firm that had never designed anything so heavily arrayed before, let alone a showcase venue in the centre of London with a 2,000-seat concert hall, theatres, art gallery, cinemas, music school and library.

Gilbert Inglefield, the Lord Mayor, was chiefly responsible for letting his old friend Peter Chamberlain in by the back door to do the architecture. Wrong says. Furthermore, he adds, the architects never let it be known "how much it would cost to run the centre. And they made the idiotic decision not to give the centre a proper street entrance. 'People will walk,' they said! Peter Chamberlain once told me that 'in five years, nobody will be using cars in London.'"

There were other bizarre problems. In 1975 a fish-wise saboteur secretly introduced pike into the Barbican's lakes. By the time the dastardly act was discovered, 8,500 goldfish had been eaten. Then, after the centre opened, 2,000 plastic balls — placed high up in the concert hall, doubtless for some arcane aesthetic purpose — had to be removed, after the pianist Maurizio Pollini refused (for excellent acoustical reasons) to play in their presence. More needless expense.

By then, however, the City fathers had more pressing difficulties. They were learning the hard way about artistic temperament — from the two great performing ensembles invited to be resident.

The first whinges came from the LSO, which had planned much too adventurously (screams of Tippet and Webern) and was aghast at its box-office takings. "The orchestra began a whispering campaign against the Barbican at the time of the opening," Wrong says. "There were certain Viennese players who didn't want to like it. Claudio Abbado, the principal conductor, was very critical of the acoustics,



Full house: Claudio Abbado was critical of the acoustics, but tens of thousands of concertgoers still find their way to the Barbican through its windswept walkways

and not in a particularly constructive way. And the LSO actually blamed the Barbican's problems on the quality of the ham sandwiches. They were desperate to find a scapegoat. It didn't seem to occur to them that they had planned foolish programmes."

Under new management, however, the LSO quickly sorted out its relationship with the City. A move towards festivals built round crowd-pulling stars (Bernstein, Rostropovich) proved highly successful. A more lasting problem had budgeted the actors — like the LSO four years earlier — started a whispering campaign against the Barbican. Except that it wasn't whispered. Adrian Noble (now the

RSC's director) spelt it out in 1989 to *The Times*: "It is impossible to preserve company spirit in those subterranean rehearsal rooms. The vast majority of RSC people hate the place profoundly."

Here was a clear warning. Yet the Barbican management genuinely felt betrayed in 1990 when the RSC cancelled its Barbican winter season, citing government underfunding as the reason. After all, only two years earlier the City had increased by 77 per cent its own funding to the LSO and RSC.

"I'd been in the job six weeks when they dropped this bombshell on my desk," O'Cathain says. "And that very same day they gave me an ultimatum, drawn up by an architect whom they had employed as a consultant without telling the Barbican management. It demanded backstage changes that they said would cost over a million pounds. I said 'there's no way we are going to do that until I've got a cast-iron, copper-bottomed guarantee that you will be back and staying back.'"

Presumably O'Cathain received her "cast-iron guarantee", because the work is now being done ("and incidentally," says O'Cathain, "it is costing considerably less than a million"). Indeed, as the tenth anniversary approaches, conciliatory noises can be heard from every corner. Perhaps they all realise they need each other. The City requires good publicity more than ever; and the LSO and RSC

need the City's cash (each gets more than £1 million a year) to boost their Arts Council grants.

But does this convenient mutual arrangement in itself make the Barbican a success? As we follow the yellow line through the windswept walkways, past the discoloured concrete, towards the arts centre that nobody really planned and few really wanted, do we rejoice that it is there at all, or regret what might have been?

In a sense the Barbican was built too early. A decade or two later, and the architectural pendulum would have swung away from the worst excesses of Brutalism. And as Birmingham's new hall

has shown, acousticians have made revolutionary strides in designing concert halls since the Barbican opened its doors.

Still, all over Britain, perhaps all over the world, arts administrators have learnt from the Barbican's failures and triumphs. "We did pioneer lots of things," says Wrong. "But it's sometimes an advantage to be second."

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Tough at the top: Baroness O'Cathain and Henry Wrong, the present and former Barbican directors

A user's guide to manual illiteracy

I have finally surrendered to destiny and ordered a satellite dish. Let that line be taken as a free plug for the proprietor of News International, let me say that, resenting every penny, I am paying for it out of my own pocket and dread its arrival.

My friends and family seem unconvinced by my protestations, but the plain truth is that I've just got to have a dish: it's a professional necessity, a vital working tool. I'm preparing a big book on Formula 1 motor racing, see, and the satellite sports stations are the only ones that transmit live coverage of practice sessions before race day, and if I don't actually watch Riccardo Patrese making monkey out of all the superstars who are paid ten times as much as him, I can't possibly convey the scene to my reader.

Do you buy that? Nobody else does. "Come off it," they say. "You'll be up all night slaving over the Adult Channel or trying to track down some Italian station showing the whole of AC Milan v Roma."

Such is the cruel cynicism faced by every restless seeker after truth and beauty: the world cares nothing for the private pains of its journalistic servants. When I was serving a brief stretch as a tele-

vision critic my wife burst into my room and disturbed my musing reverie by saying "Are you being paid to lie on the sofa watching the snooker?" How could I convince her that covering the waterfront may be a dark and dirty business but somebody's got to do it?

The reason I fear the coming of the dish is not, however, the exponential rise in gibing which it will provoke: what sinks my heart is the certainty that the instrument will be accompanied by a manual. Please God, spare me another manual. I've already got more manuals in this house than spoons. Every household appliance, child's toy, automotive knick-knack and article of wordsmith's gadgetry arrives with a hand-book as big as *Rogers's Thesaurus*. Even the lawn-mower had one. The microwave oven had one which was more impenetrable than, say, *The Steam Engine and Other Heat Engines* by Sir Alfred Ewing. I said to the wife, I said: "What happened to the days when you bought an oven and, if it was very advanced, it was fitted with an alarm clock?" She didn't answer. She was stuck on page 33 (less than halfway through the book), which is headlined **FAULTS** and which continues "Eliminate small faults yourself."

MID LIFE
Neil Lyndon finds himself lost in the high-tech jungle



It's the curse of the chip. I am a victim of multi-functionality. I buy a piece of kit for one purpose and discover that I'm meant to master five hundred steps of input. I'm surrounded by instruments which I can operate to about 2 per cent of their capacity. The calculator on my desk was bought to add, subtract, multiply, divide and prove that I couldn't afford to pay this quarter's VAT. It took me a

whole half day of brow-beating over the manual to work out how to add 17.5 per cent to 100. Who's got the time for these manuals? I hate them all. They all begin with the same smug insult. "Congratulations on having chosen our product: it just shows how bright you think you are. Now let us prove that you are incapable of passing a basic apt test in applied intelligence." They give me the same sense of the imminence of the grave as the first page of a Salman Rushdie novel: "I'm going to die before I see the point of this." I think. There is a further similarity between the chip manuals and the Salman Rushdie novels: I haven't finished any of them.

There was a time when my limited proficiency in the use of new technology was the only point of advantage I had over my parents. My father used to watch the working of my fax machine with the kind of rapt wonder with which rural peasants greeted the arrival of the first horseless carriage. My parents feared and shied away from my first answering machine like nervous horses facing a combine harvester. I would find messages from my father which began "Oh no: it's that terrible machine again." He would cry out for my mother

"What do I say to it? What do I say?" and I would hear her answering from a safe distance "I don't know: you're the clever one. Think of something."

I gave them an answering machine for Christmas about seven years ago. A few months later, they gave it back, still in its wrappings. "We'd never master this," my father said, "far too complicated at our time of life."

These days my mother prattles on the tape as if the machine is her best friend Joyce, giving news of choir outings and the progress of the bulbs in the garden. "There was something else I was going to tell you," I hear her say. "Now what was it?" I begin to feel she prefers talking to the machine than to me. Seeing the instrument as being nothing more than an electronic parish magazine, she has closed the multi-functionality gap.

If she ever finds out how to hack into the machine by remote control and hear all of my messages, including the threats from the bank and the menaces from the government inspectors, I shall be in serious bother. Fortunately, she hasn't read the manual either.

• TOMORROW
Single life: Lynne Truss

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Exploring a frame of mind

LONDON GALLERIES

Is the artist boxing clever, or is this clever packaging?
John Russell Taylor investigates the intriguing and attractive boxes created by Michael Rothenstein

If you mention the word "box" in an artistic context, Joseph Cornell immediately springs to mind: one of the American master's sly and delicate boxes of objects, assembled in a nostalgic significance to primarily playful effect. The most important thing to know about Michael Rothenstein's Boxes, now receiving their first extensive showing at the Royal Academy, is that his is nothing like that.

At first meeting, Rothenstein is difficult to associate with his work: there is this mild-mannered, thoughtful man, looking decades younger than his 84 years, and all around him are these amazing images of violence and destruction, or outbursts of vibrant colour exploding in all directions. So how does he see himself as bridging this disparity?

Essentially, like so many contemporary symbolists, he denies any special knowledge of his work, and thought, processes. His images are frequently found on the basis of "I'll know it when I see it."

Literally found, in many cases: "I've spent half my life haunting rubbish-dumps," he says cheerfully. He has been putting the things he found in boxes for 30 years now, but the world at large has been little aware of his

activities in this line, since he has rarely exhibited boxes, and never any significant number together.

Thirty years ago this sort of work would have been fairly controversial from an established artist, but Rothenstein says that had nothing to do with his not showing it. His explanation is that, since he has never had anything to do with the big institutions such as the Academy, and never taught in a major art school, he really had nobody to please but himself.

Clearly he did find for himself a considerable amount of pleasure. These assemblages pulse with a secret and not altogether explicable life. They began because Rothenstein was already fascinated, in his more familiar role as print-maker, with the idea of printing direct from pre-existent materials, using, for instance, the grain in a piece of scrap wood as a printed pattern, for its own inherent beauty. And if it was so beautiful, why not preserve and reuse the thing itself?

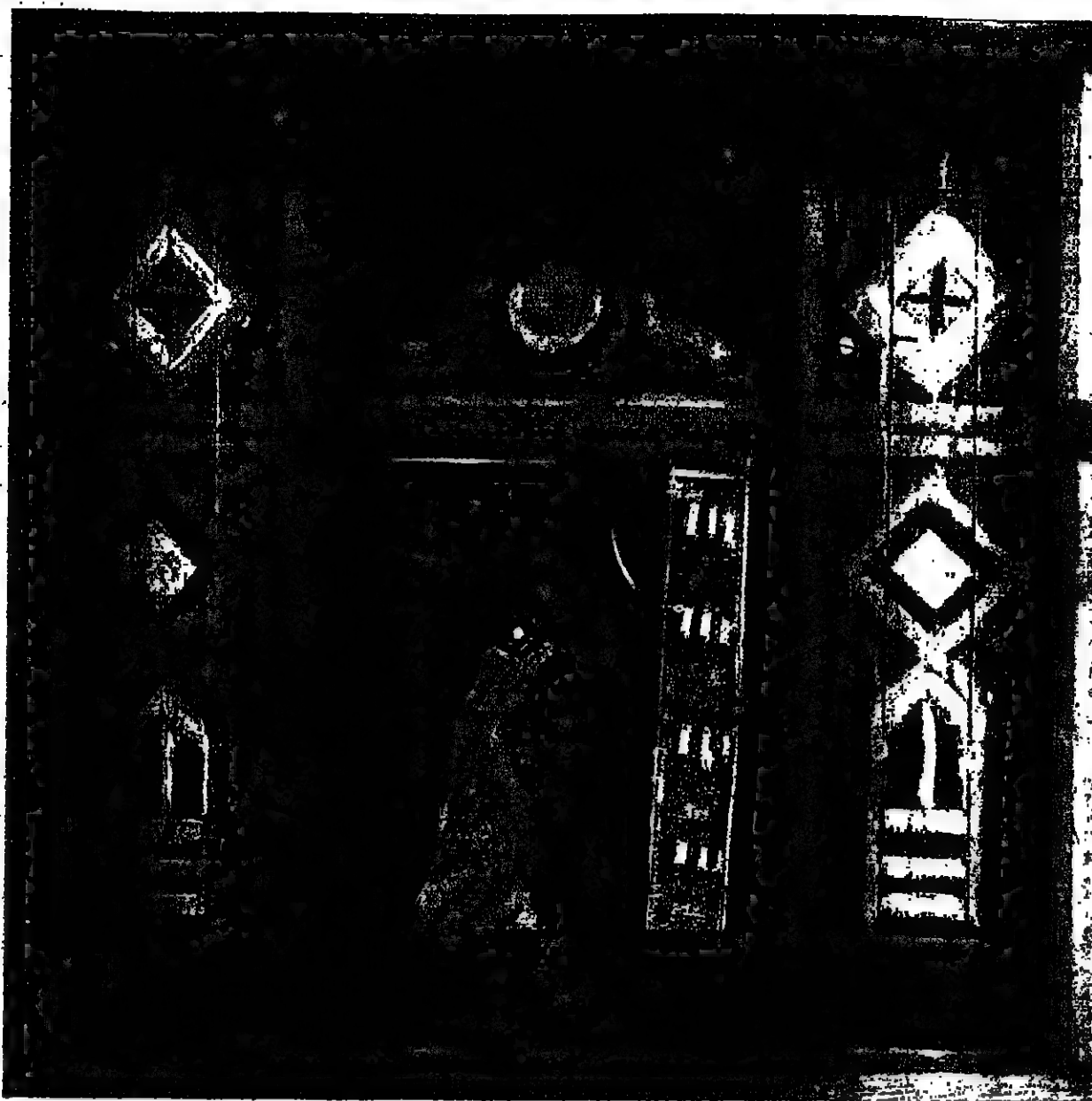
He had the same sort of attitude to found objects of a more obviously psychological type: a newspaper photograph of a murdered woman, revealing expansive cleavage on some long-forgotten beach, or a perfectly ordinary photograph of Rheims Cathedral, which took on a quite

different significance when retrieved, having been crumpled into a ball, from the office floor. For whatever reason, these things set the mind racing along unfamiliar paths.

Even more surrealist, random collections of things would spark something. A piece of Gothic tracery thrown out from a local chapel might happen to swim into Rothenstein's ken at the same time as the first space-rocker flights from Cape Kennedy, and there it was, whatever it was a Gothic arch is sort of rocket-shaped, and both have overtones of seeking the heavens, of people gazing upwards in hope and fear.

The "boxes" in this show — they are often more like paintings or prints, presented in a deep frame — constitute a sort of psychological journal. But they can be read by anyone, since they work not on a rigid system of equivalences, where, for example, a flight of birds must signify freedom, but rather on free association that is controlled only by strict aesthetic discipline.

In some cases the original elements, enshrined in boxed assemblages, are shown right next to the prints that they somehow engendered. In Cu-



Purely to please himself: *Cockerel Box*, circa 1985 (approximately 41 cm square), by Michael Rothenstein

pid there is preserved a curious desert-beige object which Rothenstein says is an old metal toy car, found flattened in the road.

Next to this is a print which uses the same image, but slightly larger, as a design element. This at once makes clear why Rothenstein fixed on it, for its air of being "some-

kind of Babylonian monument, maybe as if it were reproduced fuzzily in an old copy of the *National Geographic* magazine."

Rothenstein is an absolute genius at this kind of lateral thinking. It is no doubt also significant that many of these boxes were virtually plucked from the burning and saved

by the show's organisers.

Somehow it is only right that compilations and extrapolations of found objects should be themselves refound with almost equal arbitrariness. The whiff of danger still hangs about them, forbidding undue reverence but at the same time undeniably firing excitement.

Rothenstein's Boxes, Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 071-499 1438, Daily 10am-6pm, until March 5. Adm £2.
Michael Rothenstein: Images and Themes, Peter Nahum, 43a Duke Street, SW1 071-430 6059, Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until March 13.
Michael Rothenstein's Boxes, by Mel Gooding, Art Books International, £25.

ARTS BRIEF

Going alone

GLASGOW has not taken its failure to be designated by the Arts Council as Visual Arts Capital of 1996 lying down. At a press conference held in Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Glasgow School of Art, councillor Pat Lally announced that the city will host its independent Centenary of Arts Programme in the same year: in 1996 the famous arts school will be 100 years old. The programme's centrepiece will be the largest-ever Mackintosh exhibition, which will eventually tour the United States.

Fuller measure

THEATREGOERS in the Home Counties who were hoping to see the RSC's *Measure for Measure* and *The Blue Angel* when it finished its four-month tour at Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Staines (0784 469729) this week, will have found tickets hard to come by, especially for the Shakespeare. But they should take note: *Measure for Measure* will transfer to the Young Vic on March 6, and *The Blue Angel* is to open in the West End at a theatre and date to be announced. Both are directed by Trevor Nunn.

Last chance...

ALTYNAI Asymurova, the leading ballerina of the Maryinsky Ballet — formerly the Kirov — in St Petersburg, and a welcome regular guest at Covent Garden (071-240 1066), tomorrow dances the title role in the Royal Ballet's last performance this season of *Giselle*. Her partner is the company's latest leading man, the dashing Hungarian Zoltan Solymosi. The production is heavy in atmosphere; but these two dancers should light up the stage.

Age brings a more even tenor

JAZZ

Andy Hamilton, the septuagenarian
Birmingham saxophonist visiting
London this week, talks to Clive Davis

Jazz musicians are traditionally late risers. Legend has it that most of them linger in bed to sleep off the previous night's surfeit of alcohol, tobacco and loose women. Andy Hamilton, on the other hand, does not feel ready to face the world until he has heard the mid-morning religious service on Radio 4, followed by the network's daily reading from the Bible. He admits that he used to do his share of carousing in his younger days. As a band leader in his native Jamaica he was often given half a dozen complimentary bottles of rum after concerts. He recalls that on one occasion he and his group stopped off at a farm, in order to mix the drink with fresh milk from a

area, playing at weddings and social functions, as well as weekly sessions at The Bear public house on Bearwood Road and the swish Hyatt Hotel in the city centre.

Arguably his most important contribution has been as a teacher to generations of would-be musicians. He still runs a class at the Midlands Arts Centre in Edgbaston, and works with inner-city pupils at a secondary school in the Lea Mason district.

Hamilton came to Britain in 1949, eventually settling in Birmingham. In the years that followed he worked in factories by day and played small-scale concerts in the evenings. As a West Indian he faced the usual racial

hostility, on one occasion being assaulted by Mosleyite toughs in the middle of a performance. Married to an Englishwoman, Mary (they have ten children), he organised social events at which black and white people mix freely.

'At an age when most are enjoying retirement, his career is gaining momentum'

After years of playing one-night stands in Birmingham, he achieved national recognition last year with the release of his long-overdue debut album, *Silvershine*.

This weekend he makes a rare appearance in London, giving two concerts with a "Special Quintet" featuring pianist Jason Rebello and the Ghanaian master drummer Nana Tsiobe. Hamilton's style is a throwback to the lush sound of Coleman Hawkins and Ben Webster. The gentle and soulful approach, tinged with Caribbean rhythms, comes as a welcome contrast to the joyless harmonic webs spun by younger and more sophisticated players. His regular band, the Blue Notes, has built up a strong multi-racial following in the Birmingham

area. His manager likes to joke that Hamilton must have married off half the couples in Birmingham.

His recording debut came about through his dates at The Bear, where he frequently plays with visiting American soloists, such as the trumpeter Harry "Sweets" Edison. Impressed by Hamilton's work, many wondered why they had not heard of him before. Enter Nick Gold from World Circuit Records. Having heard Hamilton at the Soho Jazz Festival in 1990, he proposed cutting an album. When the question of guest musicians was raised, Hamilton had a list of names he could call on.

Cult American saxophonist David Murray was faxed and instantly agreed ("It's his tone, man," he said of Hamilton. "It knocks me out.")



His greatest contribution? Andy Hamilton working with pupils at the Lea Mason School, Birmingham

Andy Sheppard, Steve Williamson and Orphy Robinson were also eager to pay their respects.

One unexpected contributor was Mick Hucknall, of Simply Red. He had heard Hamilton at The Bear, and had asked if they could work together. The result was a duet on "You Are Too Beautiful". Hamilton, incidentally, has other connections with the pop world: Steve Winwood used to play piano with him many years ago, and Hamilton's son, Graeme, has worked with Fine Young Cannibals.

With all the guests dropping by, the set has a beguiling air of spontaneity, with the rough edges left intact. It is the most congenial album of its kind since Hamilton's fellow Jamaican, the trombonist Rico, recorded the jazz-ska-reggae album *That Man Is Forward* a decade ago.

Silvershine's emotional highlight is the title tune, a calypso composed by Hamilton in the Forties, during a stint as bandleader and musical arranger for Errol Flynn.

Hamilton, who used to perform on the film star's yacht, had not played the piece for decades. Then in 1986 he became seriously ill with untreated diabetes.

"I'd been to see doctors four or five times and they said it was flu, and that I should drink lots of Lucozade," he recalls. "I got worse and went into a coma. At one point in hospital they gave me a day to live, and then somehow the melody from 'Silvershine' came into my head. It made me want to live."

After four weeks in hospital, Hamilton was back on the bandstand within days, playing the tune for the first time in decades. Because of his condition he is now teetotal, though he confesses that he sneaked a whisky when he was about to go on stage with one of his heroes, the American tenorist Scott Hamilton. In the meantime, the doctor who treated him in hospital has joined his list of pupils.

The Andy Hamilton Special Quintet appears at The Orange, London W14 (071-371 4317) this Friday and Saturday.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Not just the plain truth, thank you

A problem for television playwrights who use modern British politics as their playground is that the viewers know something about it. When a pretty woman is hurled by the prime minister from the Gothic ramparts of the House of Commons onto a lime parked below, we suspect that reality has been tweaked. Drama strays into melodrama, but the result is watchable — as *House of Cards* proved.

Underbelly (BBC 2) last night aimed differently. A prison rioter falls from a roof-top protest to his death in a grey courtyard below, nobody has intended the result; and the minister has no idea what to do. This is more like real politics. But is it as watchable?

The episode, first of four, proved that it can be. The three scenes in which the drama is presumably to be played out — the street-level quandaries of a junior minister, the Commons phantoms

tank, and the world of business — are features of daily news flashes. Anyone who, missing the titles, tuned in to the prison riot, might have supposed this to be real news footage. (Wasn't it laying it on a bit thick to call the fictional prison "Strangeways"?)

Courtroom and Commons scenes were equally convincing. Indeed there was no need to force the action forward with urgent incidental music and camera work of the determinedly harrowing kind. A strong story permits less intrusive production.

And it was strong. The minister seemed a believably ordinary man, believably torn. His dodgy business-

man friend was well played as the engaging type they often are: nice wife, nice kids. Animal behaviour at Strangeways provided the off-stage jungle noises which are part of a Home Office minister's life. Noble and ignoble, kind and cruel, sensitive and refined... a tangle of qualities that many in public life confront — and exhibit.

There was humour ("This line isn't secure," says our beleaguered minister, on the telephone to his boss, the Home Secretary. "Nor are you," comes the reply. But the drama is not deliberately played for laughs — though the prisoner banging his

head against a wall could have been joined by a government minister doing likewise.

Underbelly has set off at a cracking pace, established a tension capable of holding the series together, and achieved it thus far without fantasy. The only lie, last night, was the lie inherent in all pacy television drama: every word, glance, camera-angle was significant. You could tell from the evidence where the story was going.

But the problem central to a real politician's life is that almost all of it turns out to be inconsequential. The consequential bit is seen only in retrospect. An inchoate mass of confusing detail and false trails would make bad television. In that respect televised political drama never quite captures the reality. If it did, you would reach for the off switch. Happily, no such desire troubled *Underbelly's* audience last night.

MATTHEW PARRIS

RADIO REVIEW

All set to play unhappy families

On the evidence of the first episode of Thomas Mann's *Buddenbrooks* (Radio 4, Saturday), it was not easy to guess what so upset Adolf Hitler that he had the book banned and burned. On the other hand, it hardly takes a Mann scholar to work out that the Buddenbrooks, a prosperous 19th-century merchant family living in the endless summer of their own contentment, are soon to be cast out of Eden by the demons of an altogether less genteel new order. Thomas Mann is not Enid Blyton, and anyway, nobody makes six-part drama serials about families for whom nothing goes horribly wrong.

So, over the next five Saturday nights (or Friday afternoons, if you prefer to catch the repeats), we can look forward to a story of decay, despair and gathering darkness in old Lübeck town, and the director, Jane Morgan, has gathered the perfect cast for the job.

Harriet Walter (as the beautiful daughter at the very heart) and soul of the Buddenbrook dynasty) was a particularly inspired bit of casting. Not only does she hold her own as both a classical and popular actress, we all know she looks the part — patrician, serene and made of the stuff that bends but never breaks. She is as perfect for the part as Susan Hampshire was for Fleur, the heroine of our own dear *Foray* Saga.

Whether Walter has quite the steel-eyed appeal of Lady

Macbeth is another matter, but there she was scrubbing away at the damned spot (Radio 3, Sunday) in Nigel Bryant's new and unfashionably complete version of *The Scottish Play*. Very fine she was too, but I confess that other images — one too strong, the other not nearly strong enough — prevented me being totally possessed. The strong image was of Tim McInnerny, a perfectly good audio Macbeth to be sure, but an actor who is still so umbilically linked to all those chinless dukes he played in various incarnations of *Blackadder* that it is not yet possible to take him seriously as a brooding man of muscle and malice.

The indistinct image, meanwhile, was of *Macbeth* itself, which badly needed somebody to pop up now and again and tell us where we were. If this is the oldest device in the radio book, it's not without good reason. A work as comparatively unfamiliar as *Buddenbrooks* was made a great deal more accessible by having Charles Simpson describe scenes, seasons and the passing of years,



Novelist Thomas Mann: he was no Enid Blyton

and while William Shakespeare was less obliging than Thomas Mann — he never got around to writing *Macbeth: The Book Of The Play* — more could have been done to help listeners when they couldn't tell their Ross from their Banquo.

You could say the same about the Brits '92 (Radio 1, last Wednesday). The music industry's annual awards to itself are an example of what some language mangle long ago christened the "simul-

cast" — in other words, a programme that goes out live on television and radio at the same time.

But if you chose to listen rather than watch, you needed more help than was available from Mark Goodier, a Radio 1 DJ-turned-Tom Fleming for the night, who delighted in saying things such as: "Here come Right Said Fred; they're wearing their usual stuff." If anybody out there happens to know what Right Said Fred's usual stuff is, could they kindly keep the information to themselves?

It tells you all you need to know about the pop music trade, that the Brits were essentially a television event which radio was allowed to eavesdrop. Radio 1 might be the industry's most important source of promotion, but at the annual back-scratching session, you had the firm impression that poor Master Goodier was consigned to the servants' quarters, while the movers and shakers of BBC 1 and MTV were entertained at the top table.

PATRICK STODDART

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TOMORROW IN LIFE & TIMES
All for love?
Kenneth Rex on why actors work without pay



Keying in to the porn pedlars

Young computer users have easy access to cheap hard-core material. Jay Andrews reports on a growing concern

At first, James sounds like an ordinary teenage boy. He is keen on soccer — "Arsenal's my favourite" — and his is loath to admit he likes school. He is "OK at maths" and proudly reckons himself a computer buff. In his bedroom he has an Amiga, a small machine that his parents bought him two years ago for less than £400.

Thanks to the Amiga, James is also a porn buff: he has his own small collection of floppy discs containing full-frontal nudes. He also claims to have seen hard-core material on his computer. James is aged 14. His parents have no inkling of his new pastime. "Don't use computers, do they? Mum'd be frightened of turning mine on." He refuses to say how he got hold of the material, but it will have been easy enough. The Greater Manchester police recently caught a 16-year-old boy distributing pornographic discs in a school playground. If not the playground, there is the high-street newsagent. Most, including W.H. Smith, stock legitimate computer magazines, some of which run advertisements for adult software.

All James needs to do is send his address, and a postal order for as little as £1, to one of these advertisers. In return, James receives the disc. He simply inserts it into his machine to review the contents.

People looking for computer pornography can choose between books, "animations" and games. A book on disc offers page after page of near-photographic-quality colour images. An animation is a sequence of stills that may carry a soundtrack. One called *Party Games* shows a couple having sex. The viewer uses joysticks or keys to control the speed at which they perform.

The distributors who advertise their wares range from one-man outfits to shareware libraries. These began as places where programmers could send, and buy, material that had not found a market — business applications, for instance, or programming tools.

Jeffrey Green and his wife set up Advantage Shareware in 1985, marketing business, home and leisure shareware through advertisements in computer magazines. "A few years ago, we went through a phase of getting Playboy-type stuff submitted," says Mr Green. "We did start marketing them as pin-ups. But about two years ago it got more serious. People sent us stuff where they'd taken photo-quality pictures of blue videos and re-animated them. Some were very sick. Now we don't even run the pin-ups. But many libraries offer everything."



Keyed up: while the police are hampered by a lack of resources and manpower, John Dudley has launched a one-man crusade against computer porn

Last summer, an American firm wrote to British shareware libraries offering to market their material abroad. In return, A-V Tech Productions, of Wisconsin, offered its own catalogue of shareware. John Dudley, of Essex Computer Systems, which markets general computer technology, read the letter with disgust. "They were quite frank. They said their selection included artistic nudes and hard-core material."

"They were trying to make an international business of it. Any one with a digital scanner can 'read' a photograph into a computer and animate it. A scanner costs a few hundred pounds, but you won't even need that when the new digital cameras come out. And I've seen discs of pornographic home videos — not animated to full speed, but at two frames a second, which is enough to give an idea of movement."

Three aspects of computer pornography in particular worry Inspector Andy Reed, the head of the central obscene publications department of the Greater Manchester Police. "First has to be the accessibility of this material: it's advertised in legitimate magazines and it is cheap to get hold of — packet-money prices."

"It's also easy to copy. If you have the computer to run the program in the first place, you can copy it on to further discs. And the third problem is that the average parent just gives up when it comes

to computers. Few would bother to check discs, even though it's simple enough."

Emma Nicholson, the Conservative MP, has taken the matter up and agrees that parents should become more informed about computers. However, as computer consultant Jem Prince points out, it is not as easy as that. One of his sons was a computer buff and is now reading computer science at university. "But when Caspian was a young teenager I'd no more have gone through what he had on computer than I would have read his diary. And if there was anything he'd wanted to keep utterly secret, he could have scrambled the data so only he could access it, or put it under a misleading file name in a hidden directory."

Mr Nicholson has also had discussions with John Patten, the Home Office minister. He asked officials to look into the subject, but a Home Office spokesman said the department could not treat computer pornography differently from that on any other medium. As for the magazines carrying advertisements for adult software, the spokesman said: "The publishers will have to be

aware: it's really a matter for self-scrutiny and self-regulation."

At New Scotland Yard, Superintendent Mike Harnes, of the obscene publications department, knows that computer pornography is an increasing problem, but has nobody specifically dealing with it. "There are 16 officers to cover everything under the

Obscene Publications Act within the metropolitan area: it's a question of resources. Pornography does not have that high a priority, either within the force itself or in public perception. But we do have officers collating information."

Inspector Reed's department in Greater Manchester is the only one in Britain with a special unit. It was set up last year after a departmental report on computer pornography revealed the extent of the problem. The unit's investigations contributed to a British first: the prosecution of a man for allegedly possessing pornographic discs with intent to gain. The case will be heard in Swindon magistrates' court later this month. The Greater Manchester police have a further six cases in the pipeline.

Mr Dudley has started his own

crusade. He has launched the PDSO, or Public Domain Standards for Distribution. Shareware — known as public domain — libraries that join can use the PDSO logo in their advertisements, guaranteeing among other things that their discs have been monitored for both pornography and computer viruses.

But membership is voluntary and he admits there are overheads in checking each disc out of hundreds submitted. To scan a disc for potential viruses — programmes that can corrupt others and eventually inhibit the use of the computer — takes a few seconds; watching a disc in real time for pornography takes much longer, especially when the programmer has hidden the material. So, for instance, it only appears at certain intervals in response to certain key commands.

There is a further marketplace for computer pornography that is more difficult for the police to deal with. Like shareware libraries, bulletin boards began as a legitimate means of swapping information. If someone has the number for a bulletin board, he simply dials it from his computer, using a modem that converts a computer's digital information into analogue format for the telephone. A catalogue of programs will come up on his screen. He can then select what he wants and "download" (copy) it via the telephone line into his own computer.

A number of bulletin boards offer hard-core porn, invariably protected by a password that is made available only on payment to the bulletin board's owner. The amount can be as little as £5. Bulletin boards are international: the computer might itself be in an office or home anywhere in the world.

Just about to hit the market are interactive compact discs — which allow the user to take an active role in a program. Inspector Reed has just seen one that HM Customs discovered. "The program was called *Valerie*. It was like an animated brothel. You could choose a floor in a house, and look round it; point to a television set in a room and see the blue movie on it; step into a picture on a wall and watch the animation."

Compact-disc technology, however, may price itself outside the range of most children: it requires a fairly powerful computer and an additional drive to play the discs. The discs themselves will be more expensive to make and buy.

But until then, there's cheap stuff being made and kids buying it. Inspector Reed says: "A kid of 14 watching hard-core stuff today, what's he going to be like in the future? Perhaps he's the shy one, doesn't make friends easily. I do worry for the future."

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'The average parent just gives up when it comes to computers'

Guess who's on holiday this week?

Variations in the timing of half-term can cause disruption in some families. Do the Germans or French have the answer?

This week, it is half-term. Or, then again, it might be the week after next. The truth is that the timing of half-term — the time when many school holidays vary dramatically, not only from region to region, but also from school to school. Parents inevitably bear the brunt, particularly if they have one child on holiday who wants to lie in late and another at a different school who has to be dragged protesting from his warm bed to get to class by 9 o'clock.

Infuriatingly, traditional children's entertainments frequently fail to spot this variation. My middle child is hopping mad at missing the annual Sooty show, which our civic centre is performing this week (still her term time) and not the following (her half-term). Pity, too, the teacher/parent whose working holiday fails to correspond with their child's. Not only must she or he find alternative child care, but also misses rare time spent with offspring.

There is no such confusion in Germany, where each state takes its holiday on a rota basis, which is planned up to 1994. Hence German parents have known for some years that this Easter's holiday commences on March 16 in Berlin, March 25 in Bavaria and April 2 in Stuttgart. "The system avoids heavy traffic and has reduced road accidents when families go away," says Hans Schneider, of the German embassy, whose two children are at a German school in London, where holidays tally with the Westphalia region back home. "It's much easier for parents to plan holidays several months ahead."

Germany's system was introduced in 1983. After 1994, the rota re-commences (with the state

that started its holiday last returning to the beginning of the queue). The rota system partly explains why one invariably bumps into Germans abroad, regardless of the time of year.

Nor is it just the Germans who have cracked the school holiday problem. The French divide their catchment areas into three zones (A, B and C), which also stagger holidays on a rota system to relieve traffic congestion and facilitate parental planning. Zone A started its mid-term break last Saturday, which accounts for the deserted London-based French Lycées this week. "It's particularly useful at this time of year when many families take a *vacances de neige* because you don't find yourself on the same piste with hordes of other families," points out Anna Elliott, who lived in France with her husband and three children until 1988. "But although children tend to go to school near their homes, there are still problems if you're on a zone border. Our neighbours had one child in a local school at Chantilly [about 40km north of Paris] and another in the capital itself, which was in a different area."

So why cannot we standardise school holidays over here where, at present, each local education authority and each private school decides its own dates? "It would be sensible for everyone to break up at the same time," says David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers. "I can understand stand parents who are frustrated if they have children at different schools. On the other hand, it would be difficult to standardise the private sector, which tradition-

ally works longer hours than state schools, so is entitled to longer holidays."

One little-known fact, adds Mr Hart, is that parents wishing to book holidays several months in advance can request an advance list from the local education authority, which usually works two or three years ahead.

Some state schools, says Eamonn O'Kane, deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, have actually become more standardised than parents realise, "although this might be more due to accident than design. It used to be said that the only time one could guarantee that all schools would be closed was on Christmas day and Good Friday." Mr O'Kane's native Northern Ireland sets a good example — all children are on holiday during the whole of July and August — while he says there are still hangovers from industrial traditions such as in Lancashire, where certain schools and businesses alike shut for the same fortnight in July. The association also considers the German system inflexible. "Do parents really want to plan up to ten years ahead?"

Such doubts are echoed by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. "We are now looking at rationalising school terms so they're the same length regardless of county," says a spokesman. "But it's not the most urgent investigation on our agenda."

But if standardising school terms will not work, perhaps a four-term system might. British educational authorities have, for some years, been considering a school year that would correspond



Lucky break: children at one school may be on vacation while their friends at another work on

with the seasons and, therefore, mean shorter holidays. Mr Hart is sympathetic to the idea. "We'd get away from the long winter term, which runs from September until Christmas. And we could also shift the timing of exams away from the hottest and most hay-fever-ridden period of the year. Summer holidays might be reduced to four weeks, which would make it easier for children to re-adjust to school life, and the extra fourth term might allow parents to go away for a second annual break."

The four-term year remains at the planning stage, although Mr Hart says "a number of Midlands

local authorities have expressed 'interest in piloting it'. Standardisation, however, does not suit everyone. Spain, for example, has decentralised its system. "Until 1985, all schools took their holidays at the same time," says Teresa Tinsley, of the Spanish embassy. "Now each region decides holidays." And the French admit their zone system can cause difficulties — when planning family weddings, for instance. Imagine a bunch of bridesmaids, of whom only one is *en vacances*.

JANE BIDDER

TOMORROW

"We are not a bunch of Catholics living in the Dark Ages anymore. Irish women talk about abortion"

When granny is nanny

Victims of the recession include grandparents who are dumped on as well as dumped

Sometimes social trends come at you so fast you get your cues scrambled. A sixtyish woman was adjusting her glasses the other day over a headline about "granny dumping" — the phenomenon wherein elderly people are left in hospital waiting-rooms by defecting relatives. She instantly began a soliloquy about the scandal she assumed must have inspired the headline: the other social trend wherein small children are persistently dumped on granny. This, she intimated, was getting pretty much as bad as the other sort.

Of course, entrusting children to loving grandparents is an honoured tradition as old as procreation. In fact, if Eve had a grudge against the Creator, it was probably that He hadn't bothered to whip out another of Adam's ribs and make a handy granny for the future baby Cain (come to think of it, a good ruthless granny might have sorted that lad out nicely). Down the centuries, grandparental care in times of stress or crisis have saved millions of children from neglect. It is a noble role. But there are signs that young couples are starting to embrace the extended family with rather more vigour than finesse. Recessionary times have slowed down the nanny boom, and recent cases and films involving "nannies from hell" have sown panic. So, as one young mother put it in an unguarded moment: "One is more attracted to the devil one knows." Faithful granny, down the road.

Few parents with full-time jobs rely entirely on grandparental childcare. But those with part-time jobs or merely a passion for skinning are getting keener and keener on it. And it presents problems. Not so much in the working classes, where the custom of using nannies as childminder never died out and a plain-spoken *modus vivendi* has long since been reached. The trouble occurs when middle-class couples have their first babies and find that the onset of comparative

'In the interest of delicacy, the best currency for babysitting would be bottles of gin and theatre tickets'

poverty brings on a strange, heart-warming new affection for their old parents.

And nobody asks: does granny need such onerous new responsibilities? She is fitter and brighter in her 60th year than any of her ancestors, awash in new interests and projects. She has probably achieved a paid-for house and a decorous, leisured social life punctuated with highly agreeable trips to Venice or farther afield (remember, this is the SAGA generation too). Grandad is just learning to potter. When the first grandchild is born, often just as they had given up on their career daughter or daughter-in-law, everything changes. Of course, they are entranced: the first time the precious baby is allowed to stay overnight, alone, is a dream come true.

The 81st time is less thrilling. The once neat, adult house is strewn with potpies, pushchairs, garish plastic toys and chewed books. The younger couple seem to be out more often, their unpaid, unthanked childminders. The grandparents are made wary of complaining by horror stories from friends who see their descendants only once a year. "We're awfully lucky, really," puffs granny, hauling another magnum of disposable nappies off the chemist's shelf.

It would not be so bad if some kind of etiquette of power sharing had been worked out, but parents rarely cede much power to compensate for all this responsibility. From diet to music practice they are notoriously dog-in-the-mangerish about controlling their children's lives, and demonstrate the unpleasant middle-class social law that the less hands-on childcare parents do, the more doctrinaire they get about the way their substitutes do it (ask any nanny). So although granny may have the brats two nights a week plus, she might as well be the au pair. But au pairs get paid, and grannies don't. Perhaps this is the answer.

"I think," said my sixty-something friend, "that in the interest of delicacy, the best currency would be bottles of gin and theatre tickets. Provided you know you'll get the night off babysitting the other grandchildren to go to the damn play in the first place."

LIBBY PURVES

No harmony in arcadia

When Sir Edward Elgar was an old man, widely revered as the greatest composer England had produced since Purcell, he told his daughter Carice that if a museum of his life was ever to be set up, his preference would be for it to be in the cottage near Worcester where he was born in 1857. A museum was, indeed, set up there soon after his death in 1934, and his daughter donated the documents and memorabilia which make up the bulk of its exhibits, and chose how they should be arranged.

Elgar's choice of site was characteristic, and deeply fitting, as most of the rising numbers of visitors who seek out the museum today would confirm. But unwares, he prepared a dilemma for the trustees of the Elgar Birthplace Museum. It is now coming to a head, agitating lovers of Elgar's music and ruffling the peace of the Malvern countryside that he so greatly cherished.

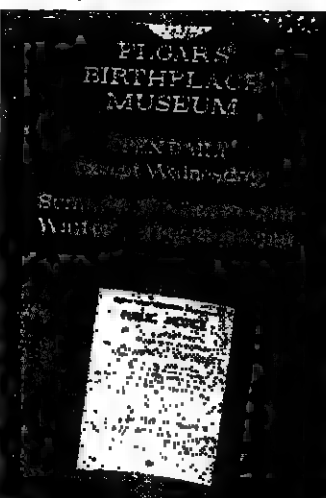
Elgar can scarcely have foreseen that his work would become so much loved around the world that it would draw 10,000 visitors a year down the lane in the village of Lower Broadheath to see the museum, set in green fields and looking out towards the hills to which Elgar returned all his life for inspiration.

The Victorian farm labourer's cottage is so tiny that it can hardly cope with today's crowds, let alone provide space for the car park, gift shop, audio-visual displays, refreshments and lavatories that have become expected features of a shrine to the famous. Nor can it provide the kind of conditions that modern scholarship regards as indispensable for the protection of a major archive.

As the problem began to loom in the mid-1980s, the trustees decided that the only solution was to build a separate visitor centre behind the cottage, with room for all the facilities that the existing building cannot contain. A formal planning application has now been made, and an appeal launched, which has already raised almost £400,000 towards the estimated cost of about £1m.

But the arrival of a brand-new building necessarily several times larger than the cottage threatens to destroy the atmosphere of the spot that Elgar regarded as holy ground. Some Elgar lovers see the plan as a violation of the spirit of the place, and some villagers oppose the threat it poses of diversion to a favourite bridleway.

Can Elgar's idyllic Malvern cottage cope with a visitor centre?
George Hill reports



The planning committee of the Malvern Hills District Council will probably discuss the matter early next month.

The Prince of Wales is patron of the Elgar Foundation. As an amateur cellist, he has a special interest in the composer of the great cello concert, with its wistful evocation of the sadness of change. He has visited the museum several times, and privately commented on the plans as they have been revised and readjusted. His reservations helped to influence the shift from a relatively grandiose early proposal to a single-storey version which is architecturally conservative and unassuming, though still far larger than the cottage itself.

The trustees' dilemma is one that many of their counterparts also face today. Genius notoriously has little regard for mundane difficulties, and the famous are particularly inconsiderate in failing to take the trouble to be born or to write their masterpieces in lodgings at which posterity can conveniently come to pay tribute. Churchill, born unexpectedly at Blenheim Palace, is one of the few who organised their birth with proper foresight.

Elgar's cottage is especially diminutive, but the problem recently

described by John Yates of English Heritage as "the Brontë personage syndrome", is familiar to workers in the field. A plan by the Brontë Society last year to extend the former home of the Brontë sisters by adding a visitor centre which would have been larger than the house itself was dropped after fierce opposition from members of the society.

As his music often implies, Elgar was a man with an intense attachment to his roots. He returned whenever he could to the small area between the Severn and the Malvern hills. Many of his scores are annotated with the names of local places where the germ of an idea first came to him, as he cycled through the hills or walked beside one of the rivers that flow off them.

Broadheath summed up all this, and stood for something more. He cannot have had any direct recollections of the time when he lived in the cottage, for his family moved back into Worcester, to be nearer his father's music shop and piano tuning business, when he was only two years old. But his mother made sure that her children went back every year to stay in a farmhouse near the cottage. They knew all its woods and footpaths by heart.

They were a family with a strong sense of continuity, of boards of documents and memories, and for Edward the cottage came to represent a legendary, visionary infancy going back beyond conscious memory. After he married, he brought his wife to see it, and in the 1920s he was still on the lookout for a house in the village.

"So you have been to Broadheath — I fear you did not find the cottage — it is nearer the clump of Scotch firs — I can smell them now — in the hot sun. Oh! How cruel that I was not there — there's nothing between that infancy and now..." he wrote to a friend when he was 60.

"He must have taken me there at least ten times with the dogs," says his godson, Wulstan Atkins, who is now chairman of the Birthplace Trust. "He would knock at the door, explain who he was and ask if he could peep inside, or look at the garden."

The cottage was entirely unremarkable in its time, though it is more distinctive today, simply because it has never been embellished with pebble-dash, garage or picture window. In the main the surroundings are as Elgar would



Broadheath: "Elgar would knock at the door, explain who he was, and ask if he could peep inside or look at the garden."

'Elgar would have used that path, and I don't think it should be moved for the sake of a car park'

Prince Charles has approved all these changes," he says. "This thing is at least ten times the size of the cottage. The trustees are simply missing the whole point about the birthplace."

Mr and Mrs McKenzie fear that Elgar's almost mystical relationship with the Malvern countryside is being forgotten in an obsession with providing audio-visual displays and facilities for car-bound tourists.

Bill Allington, a farmer and a former birthplace trustee, is one of a number of villagers who oppose a diversion of the bridleway. "Elgar would have used that path, and I don't think it should be moved for the sake of a car park."

The Prince of Wales is reluctant to be seen as exercising an undue influence on the controversy. Dr Brian Hanson, an architect who has been advising him on the

project, confirms that the Prince has been shown the latest plans as a matter of courtesy, but does not want to intervene publicly. "We're not the last word on this. The Prince wants the plans to be taken now to public consultation, and the planners and public to have their say."

"We have been guided in deciding what to do by the Museums and Galleries Commission, which formally recognised us last year as the museum of national status for Elgar," says David Hawkins, one of the trustees. "We need a new space to introduce people to Elgar and put him into historical and local context. I think local objections centre mainly on the bridleway, and the final decision on that is still open to negotiation."

Some members of the Elgar Society have proposed that a better

home for a visitor centre would be in St Nicholas's church in Worcester itself. The church is redundant, and the Church Commissioners would be happy to find an alternative use for it. But it is a large building, and the upkeep problems for its handsome but neglected Georgian stonework would clearly be considerable.

Wulstan Atkins has no doubt that the trustees are doing the right thing: "Elgar would have been the first to approve of the centre, provided it is at the back of the cottage. It was the front that he cared about, with its view towards the Malvern Hills."

Yet even in the scaled-down form now proposed, there is no doubt that the new centre would change the atmosphere of the spot. If the number of visitors continues to rise, it will change anyway, and in ways that may be more damaging both to the museum and its surroundings. By decreeing where his museum should be, Elgar may have killed the thing he loved. Deeply understanding as he did the poignancy of change, and the impossibility of ever going back to a yearned-for past, the irony is one that he would recognise well.

The man with two wives

The West may have something to learn from the 'sister wife', who shares clothes, children — and a husband

The concept of a "sister wife" — an Urdu term for two wives openly sharing the same husband — is unfamiliar in this country, but not as rare as you might think. Such a marriage is the subject for a ground-breaking film to be shown on BBC2 on Sunday.

My Sister Wife tells the story of Farah, a clever, independent, thoroughly British Asian girl who falls in love with a married Asian businessman. But he will not get a divorce. A familiar story except that being a Muslim, he offers to marry her as well. The Muslim wedding ceremony of *Nikah* is not recognised as marriage in English law, so there is no question of bigamy.

Farah marries him on the assumption that they will soon set up a separate home. But time goes by and she discovers this is not going to happen. She has to come to terms with her sister wife Maryam, the mother of his children.

The fluctuating drama of their relationship is the basis of a fascinating film, which raises not just Muslim or Asian issues but wider human ones. After all, extra unofficial wives are not unknown in normal British society. Sometimes they only discover each other's existence at the funeral.

The film is a co-operative production based on discussions and research by three women — Asmaa Pirzada, the script editor, who thought up the idea; Ruth Baumgarten, the producer; and Meera Syal, who wrote the script and plays Farah. The couples — or rather triples — who offered their experiences as background mostly wanted to remain anonymous. But they included K.D. Patel, who came to Britain as a refugee from Amin's Uganda and made himself a millionaire in the garage business. He is quite open about his domestic



Three's company: Meera Syal is pictured on the right

happiness with both Mrs Patel: the elder helps manage the business and runs the home, and the younger is a Brent councillor.

Ms Pirzada, a Muslim, and Ms Syal, a Hindu, both already knew of multiple marriages, but found the research eye-opening just the same. "My grandfather in Pakistan had two wives," Ms Pirzada says, "but both of us were brought up in Britain. We are Western women with monogamous relationships. Meeting wives who share their marriages, we asked the same sort of questions anyone would — do you mind when the husband sleeps with the other wife? Do you lock the bathroom door? Do you wear one another's clothes?"

"The wives thought these questions banal — they were beyond all that. We discov-

ered that the rationale of sharing a husband comes out of their communal approach to the family — it's not the 'me, me, me' thing it is in the West. They see families as joint enterprises for mutual benefit. The older wife has the right of approval of the second wife and, if it is a success, she looks on her as a younger sister. One of them said to us: 'If she bleeds, I hurt. Her children are my children. Only the West thinks sharing is a weak thing to do.'"

Surely this complaisant sharing stops short at the bedroom — or bedrooms, for each wife has her own? When, as often happens, the man takes a much younger second wife, one would expect there to be sexual jealousy, which is explored in the film. "It isn't necessarily so," Ms Pirzada says. "One older wife told us,

"I can't compete with her — but why should I? Another said what a relief it was when she was having her children, that there was someone else for her husband to sleep with."

One of the wives was indeed jealous because she had been deceived over the existence of her rival right up to the marriage. So she refused to have the second wife in her house. The husband divided his time equally between both households.

"One wife said to me that she was sick of being told that hers was a barbaric arrangement," Ms Pirzada says. "How much more barbaric, she asked, is a system that makes Cecil Parkinson's wife out a martyr and makes him reject the other woman he loved and her child?"

A third of British marriages end in divorce, and most petitions are brought by women, points out Ms Baumgarten. "Western culture, with its emphasis on sexual allure, sets women in competition with one another. So when a man takes a younger mistress, the wife cannot be seen to accept it because of the loss of face. In the film, Farah has to unlearn this attitude."

If it is better to accept than to be left, perhaps the less competitive East has a lesson to teach the West? "The film doesn't offer any solutions, but it does question the Western myth of overpowering romantic passion — the idea that one whoosh of it has to last you for life and must blind you to all other possibilities. That doesn't do justice to the complexities of life," Ms Baumgarten says.

Ms Pirzada adds: "Women in their late twenties and early thirties think, 'Oh God, I must knuckle down to having the children by finding that one man who will fulfil all my needs for life'. But in a triangle nobody is expected to be all things to another person. It could take the heat off the relationship."

Nevertheless, it was the man who had the best of both partnerships in the film, not the women. Would it work the other way round? "We may have to make another film to explore that."

PETER LEWIS

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Not a fraud after all?

An attempt to rehabilitate the reputation of the late Sir Cyril Burt, the founding father of British educational psychology, faces a crucial test later this week.

The Council of the British Psychological Society, at its meeting on Saturday, will decide whether to call for a reinvestigation of Burt, discredited after his death for falsifying his research into the inheritance of intelligence.

A number of senior members of the society, unable to believe that Burt would stoop to fraudulence and deceit, have pressed for the case to be reopened. At its last council meeting the society responded to the call by asking the vice-president, Professor Peter Morris of Lancaster University, and the president-elect, Dr Ed Miller of the health department, to make a preliminary investigation and report back.

They will do so on Saturday. So far, there have been no hints of their conclusions, but the supporters of Burt remain confident. Since charges were first laid against him in the 1970s, further evidence has emerged to suggest that the society, and Burt's biographer Leslie Hearnshaw, may have been too quick to accept them. Two recent books have defended Burt and have inspired the efforts to rehabilitate him.

One of the leaders of the campaign is Dr Clare Burtall, director of the National Foundation for Educational Research. "I feel that anybody who has read Burt's books could not but believe that he was a man of total honesty and integrity. The charges against him simply don't stand up to scrutiny — they're rubbish," she says.

In educational circles, Burt is principally remembered as the man who created the 11-plus. His studies of intelligence had convinced him that it was largely inherited, and that the answers to questions in an intelligence test provided a fair measure of a child's potential. While environment or family background might affect performance in academic subjects, IQ tests made objective distinctions between children possible.

Burt based his findings on

Leading psychologists are attempting to rehabilitate the father of the 11-plus.

Nigel Hawkes reports on the campaign

Studies of identical twins separated at birth and adopted by different families. Since such twins share exactly the same genes, they start out with the same chances. By measuring their IQ later in life, Burt was able to assess how much it had been influenced by the environment into which they had been adopted. He concluded that heredity was far more important than environment in determining intelligence.

Studies of this kind are very hard to do, as the numbers of separated twins are never going to be large. By the end of his life, Burt claimed to have studied 53 such pairs of twins, more than twice as many as any previous attempt.

The curious feature of his results, first noticed by Princeton psychologist Leon Kamin, was that as the number of twins studied rose from 20 to 53, the very high correlation between the IQ of the pairs remained the same to the third place of decimals. Statistically, this is impossible, and the charge was made that Burt had simply invented many of his twin pairs to buttress his conviction that intelligence was overwhelmingly inherited.

Further doubt was cast on his work when it proved impossible to trace two women cited as co-authors on later papers — Margaret Howard and J. Conway.

Finally, Leslie Hearnshaw, given the task of writing a biography of Burt after his death in 1971, examined the evidence and concluded with reluctance that it proved the case: Burt had invented his results and even created shadow colleagues to make it look more convincing. The pillar of educational psychology was a fraud. In 1980 the council of the

British Psychological Society accepted Hearnshaw's arguments as "evidence of fraud".

From the beginning, the argument was bedevilled by political prejudice. Those who sought to discredit Burt were libertarians reluctant to believe that nothing we do can improve the intelligence of our children — or, worse, that there may be inbuilt genetic differences in the intelligence of different racial groups. Those who supported Burt were seen as reactionaries, believers in hereditary principles, even racists. In such a poisoned atmosphere, the truth has to struggle hard to find the light.

Nevertheless, for most people Hearnshaw's book seemed to bring the issue to a close. Stephen Jay Gould has written, in *The Mismeasure of Man*, that he was convinced that Burt was not merely a devious person trying to bolster hereditary views by doctoring the data, but "a sick and tortured man".

That the argument has begun to swing back is largely due to two more recent books, *The Burt Affair* by Robert Joynton, and *Science, Ideology and the Media*, by Ronald Fletcher.

Joynton took another look at Hearnshaw's biography, and found in it a catalogue of errors "so frequent and widespread that they are highly likely to be discovered by anyone who sets out to check, wherever they begin their inquiry". Joynton claims that Hearnshaw was as cavalier with the data as he accused Burt of being, using selective quotation and third-hand and unconfirmed evidence to bolster the case. He concedes that near the end of his long life Burt did show some

frailties, but that the bulk of his work was sound and deserves respect.

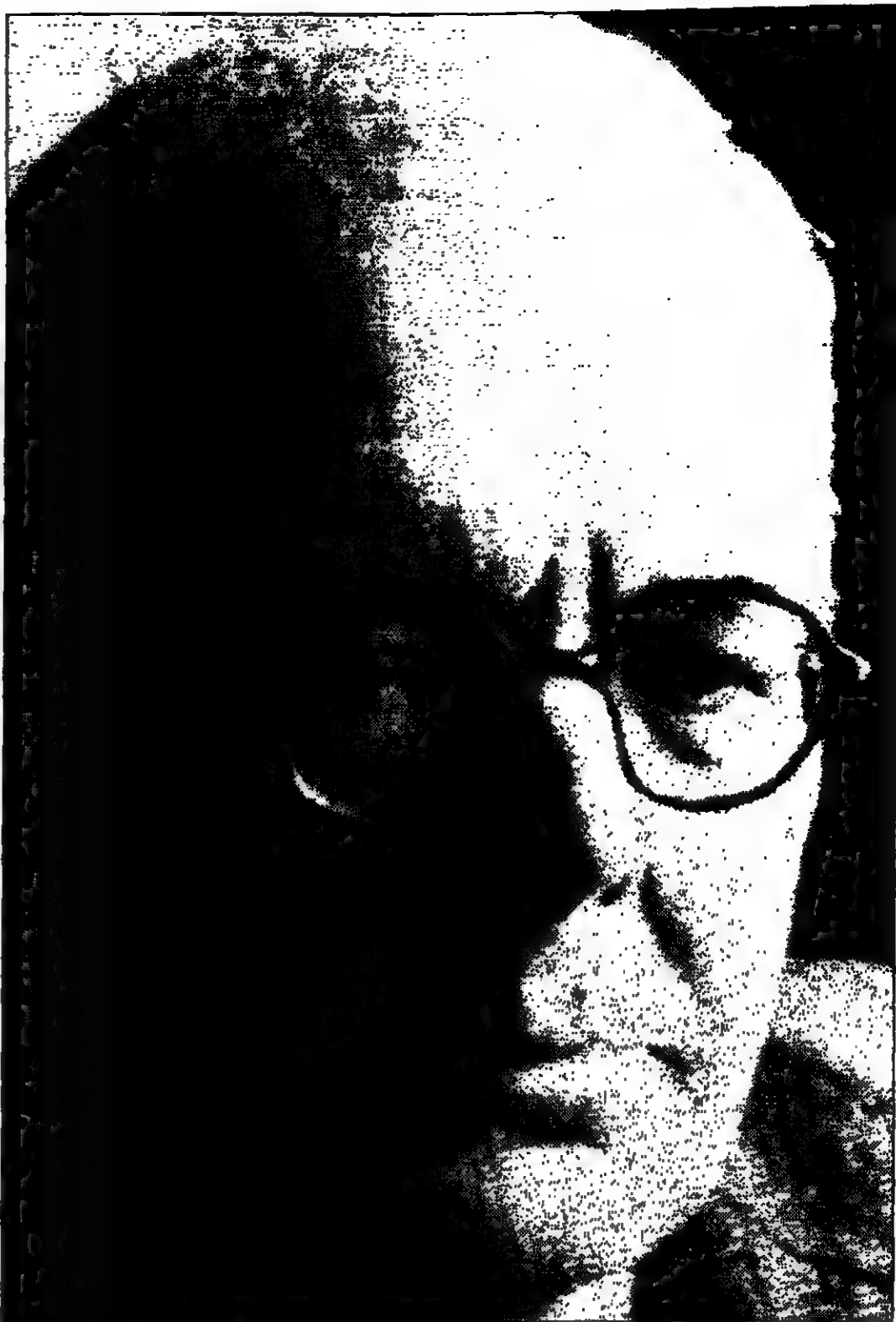
Curiously, Burt's central contention is now much less controversial than it was. Dr Burtall says: "There is now so much corroborative evidence that intelligence is largely inherited that the details of Burt's work don't matter a hang. It is difficult to put figures on it, but it is perfectly clear that there is a large inheritability of intelligence which can be affected for good or evil by the environment." Among child psychologists, the important role of heredity in determining intelligence is not in question.

In addition, some of the colourful details used, to hang Burt — such as the non-existence of the two collaborators — are being sharply questioned. "There are independent witnesses who knew the missing ladies," says Dr Burtall. The widow of a man who worked with Margaret Howard has spoken up, and the son and daughter of the other assistant, Jane Conway, have provided statements.

According to Mrs Heather Cole, her husband Alexander had worked with Miss Howard, but by the time the allegations against Burt were made he was too ill to come forward and provide evidence. "I have always said that if the case was revived I would speak up because he felt so strongly," she has said.

Saturday's meeting will be given a report by the two senior members deputed to examine the evidence, and the council will then have to decide how to take the matter forward. Burt's defenders, a group of ten led by Professor Bill Wall, want the council to recommend a full examination by an independent body such as the Royal Society. The council may agree to this, or they may decide that there is insufficient evidence to reopen the question.

Whatever the verdict, Clare Burtall is not going to give up. "I'm not going to let it die, anyway. I've got the bit between my teeth."



Politically incorrect: Sir Cyril Burt's theories about heredity and intelligence offended many

NOTICEBOARD

Student mentors

Sheffield University has joined forces with the city's education authority to try to raise the proportion of young people in the region going on to further and higher education.

Six Sheffield schools serving communities with no tradition of post-16 education are to take part in a pilot project, using university students as mentors and taking pupils to the university for educational and social activities. After 16, the pupils will take courses approved by the university in further education colleges, culminating in a degree once agreed targets have been reached.

Unequal share

The 136 schools that have opted out of local authority control have taken a fifth of the £25 million set aside by the government for its Technology Schools Initiative. Derek Fairclough, Labour's education spokesman, said yesterday that children in grant-maintained schools were receiving seven times as much as those in local authority schools.

Teaming up

Higher education colleges are anticipating the demise of the

Council for National Academic Awards, in 1993, by forming new relationships with neighbouring universities. Three colleges have announced changes this month. The West London Institute of Higher Education will become a college of Brunel University, the West Sussex Institute will be an accredited college of Southampton University, and Glasgow University will validate degrees at Glasgow School of Art.

Recruiting

Almost 200 leading independent schools will be represented at the British education exhibition in Hong Kong this week. Classes of 50 pupils are common in Hong Kong, and growing numbers of parents are sending their children to schools in Britain instead.

Teaching AIDS

A leading AIDS charity yesterday urged the government to bring people with personal experience of the disease into the classroom, rather than relying on the national curriculum to cover the subject. AIDS Care Education and Training, which produces information packs and sends educators into schools, claimed that experience showed children responding more positively to those who have cared for AIDS sufferers.

JOHN O'LEARY

In praise of traditional values

The high master of St Paul's has little time for 'egalitarian delusions', John Rae reports

A public school headmaster who says bluntly that the introduction of comprehensive schools was a disaster and that the preservation of A-level standards should be at the heart of government policy on secondary education, is not likely to receive a standing ovation from the National Union of Teachers; nor, for that matter, from the Headmasters' Conference, anxious as that body has always been not to offend those who work in state schools.

The Reverend Canon Peter Pilkington, high master of St Paul's School and shortly to become chairman of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, has no such inhibitions. His denunciation of what he calls "egalitarian delusions" was published last year by the Thatcher Centre for Policy Studies.

Put like that, Pilkington may sound an archetypal backwoodsman but his diagnosis of what is wrong with British education is not a defence of the status quo. As a historian, he sees clearly the consequences of Britain's failure to produce technical schools and to value vocational education. What he advo-

cates is "different education for different talents" — two separate but equally prestigious paths post-16, one technically based and leading to a national vocational qualification, the other academically based and leading to A-levels.

I put it to him that the officers-and-other-ranks mentality was still so dominant in British life that the separate tracks would never achieve "parity of esteem". It would be a challenge, he admits, but at least his way there was a chance of getting it right, whereas the introduction of a unitary comprehensive system post-16 was bound to be a disaster.

Canon Pilkington's ideas are unfashionable in education circles but not in the school he runs. "We are traditionalists," the head of history at St Paul's told me, as though that was enough to explain the school's remarkable record. Of all the independent schools with pretensions to academic excellence St Paul's has been the most consistently successful. A hundred years ago, Raymond Asquith, a boy at Winchester, reckoned that if



Canon Peter Pilkington: new chairman of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission

he was to win a Balliol scholarship it was the clever boys from St Paul's he had to beat. Nothing has changed.

I am sure I was not the only head of a rival school who pondered the secret of St Paul's success. According to Canon Pilkington, one of St Paul's advantages is that, despite its traditional teaching, it is not a traditional public school; from its origins in the Renaissance it prizes intellect above all and it developed a secular ethos long before the other public schools.

It waived the baptismal requirement in Victorian times, whereas Westminster scholars still had to "profess the Christian faith" until the

1970s. "Beneficent, beneficent," was Sir Isaiah Berlin's comment on the influence of his school days there. "I became respectful of books and the life of the intellect."

Canon Pilkington's own career, from humble background to Cambridge, via a grammar school in the north east, exemplifies the triumph of intellectual rigour over social disadvantage. He has no time for snobbery or for that middle-class guilt that allowed some former public schoolmen to collaborate in the destruction of the grammar schools. He defends A-levels, not because he wishes to preserve an academic officer class but because he believes that study in depth

unlocks the individual's intellectual resources in a way that more superficial courses can never do. He will accept a little broadening of the sixth form curriculum but not much. Depth, rigour, excellence — these should be the watchwords of a good sixth form whether it is in the independent sector or the maintained.

What about the casualties? St Paul's is famous for the efficiency of its academic organisation but there is a chilling passage in the latest issue of the school magazine written by the boys themselves: "If pupils consistently fail to hand work in on time or are

habitually absent they should be expelled within the term. It is only misguided sentimentality to believe that the unwilling can be reformed."

Nothing in Canon Pilkington's personality or style of headmastering suggests he would endorse that approach but he recognises that St Paul's is not a school for the easy-going or the faint-hearted.

No one could accuse him of being either. When he leaves this summer, he will have been high master for only six years, but in that time he has reformed the curriculum and seen through from start to finish a £6 million development to provide a technology centre, seven new classrooms, three new science laboratories and an art department.

He is quick to give credit to others, particularly to his second in command — "the unsung heroes of these institutions" — but it was his drive that made change possible. He thought he would receive preferment in the Church of England but it was made clear to him that his views precluded advancement. As chairman of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, he will have time to continue his vigorous defence of A-levels. Those who wish to see that exam replaced still face a formidable antagonist.

Dr Rae is a former head of Westminster School.

End of History debate

The author Francis Fukuyama has set the scene in 1989 he said that a liberal democracy will be the only viable political system in a post-ideological world. Provocative enough. Now, in his new book, *The End of History and the Last Man* (to be published here on March 5 by Hamish Hamilton), he has expanded his thoughts. Is he right? Is this the sort of future we really face? Do Fukuyama's arguments, strongly expressed in today's accompanying article

stand up? If not, why not?

The Times has invited Francis Fukuyama to qualify his views at a testing debate: The End of History debate, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, on Thursday March 5, starting at 7.30pm. The chairman will be Simon Jenkins, the editor of The Times. The speakers will include Norman Stone, Professor of Modern History, Oxford; Roger Scruton, Professor of Aesthetics.

LONDON: Ernest Gellner, Professor of Social Anthropology, Cambridge; and Tessa Blackstone, Master of Birkbeck College and front-bench Labour peer.

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I am a strong supporter of the Conservatives' educational reform programme. The success of Education Acts since 1979 has restored the position of consumers in the education market, given parents more choice, and made schools able and ready to respond to parental demands, including demands for proper content and quality in the curriculum. Why, then, do I think that a legislative National Curriculum is wrong both in principle and in practice?

It was Lord Joseph, in his term of office as education secretary, who sought to get a more structured curriculum by a series of measures outlined in his 1985 circular *Better Schools*. But he expressly rejected the idea that Parliament should legislate a curriculum. Not only could he see the dangers of political control of the content of education, but he also knew that already in the pipeline were all the other plans for releasing market forces — giving schools control over their own budgets and increasing parental choice by opening up admissions procedures and creating grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges.

However, things went wrong when Kenneth Baker decided to adopt a belt and braces approach. While push-

Take the law out of the curriculum

Stuart Sexton (below) takes a principled stand on the government's plans to dictate what children learn

through LMS, grant-maintained schools and CTCs — moves to raise standards as well as increase effectiveness — he also took direct central government control of the curriculum. We now have a national curriculum by law, with all the bureaucratic apparatus of attainment targets, programmes of study, government control of examinations, technology tests for seven-year-olds, and the rest.

This is wrong in principle because politicians should not have the power to dictate, in detail, what our children should and should not learn. And it is wrong in practice because the so-called experts appointed to exercise the government's power override the professionalism of the teachers.

Can it really make sense that a small panel of "experts" decides the standard and content of technology for



VIEWPOINT

seven-year-olds? At the little school I started six years ago, Warlingham Park School, we have been pursuing such work in greater diversity and to a higher standard than is being required; ought we now to lower our sights?

Still, what is done is done. Maybe the educational establishment had to be jolted out

of its complacency. But what should be done after the general election? I hope that with an incoming Conservative government, the whole exercise will be declared to have done the trick, to have returned schools to the basics and to higher standards, and that the developing market of schools under grant-maintained status can take over and maintain a dynamic system responsive to parental demands and children's needs.

I hope that SEAC and NCC, and the whole panoply of control, will be wound up within months. I hope the examinations system will be returned to genuinely independent boards. I hope that the tentative measures already taken to improve teacher training will be expanded upon. Select and train the right people to be your teachers; and you can drop all this bureaucratic control.

What if Labour or Labour/Liberal Democrats were to take control? Then we would be in trouble. Notwithstanding the impracticality of detailed control of ten subjects, they would still attempt it. They would seize upon the weapon so handily forged for them by the Conservatives, and use it for their own ideological ends.

What price "peace studies", a certain kind of sex education, "social awareness", "humanist ideas", as compulsory parts of the school day? All they need do is put their lot into SEAC and NCC, and away we go. Add to that their declared intention of sweeping away grant-maintained status, and you are back in the 1960s with a vengeance.

No, the way to ensure high standards and a proper curriculum is to create a genuine market relationship between the suppliers of education, the schools and their teachers, and the consumers, parents and their children. We had it once, we lost it from the 1950s onwards. It is being restored now under current reforms. The last thing we need is central control of the curriculum and examinations by any government, no matter how benevolent they may claim to be.

The author was political adviser to former education secretary, Lord Joseph

LAW TIMES

A contemptible mess

Confusion in the courts means the press cannot know where contempt begins, Antony Whitaker says

A stipendiary magistrate last November directed that the teenage victim of a manslaughter charge (since withdrawn) should not be named in the media so as to give the boy the benefit of section 39 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933.

This was aimed at preserving anonymity for the young against the disturbing notoriety that comes with news-worthy cases. But the magistrate, Dudley Thomas, overlooked the fact that the boy, Jason Swift, had actually died six years before. When a journalist pointed this out the next day to another magistrate, Peter Badge, he at once revoked the order.

In a second case, on January 14, the Plymouth Evening Herald took the Maxwell brothers to task for their silence before a Commons select committee. An indignant Judge Overend demanded the Herald's immediate attendance to explain away, if it could, the prejudicial impact of the article on the jury hearing a case before him, were either of the accused in that case to choose not to give evidence. He refused any adjournment, and gave the paper just ten minutes to find counsel.

Heather Burwin came to the rescue. She referred the judge to section 5 of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, and the article in that day's Times headed "There is no right to silence". She persuaded him that the Herald had a defence, on the basis that any incidental prejudice was subordinate to the requirement of the freedom to debate matters of public interest. But the paper is now left wondering why it, rather than the public purse, should have to foot the bill for what seemed peremptory judicial displeasure.

These examples might seem trivial. But they could be multiplied country-wide. Compared with *Spectator*, where *The Sunday Times* was unjustly silenced for over a year, they are mere blips on the judicial screen and commonplace among the hazards of journalism. But in the wider context of the law of contempt, they show how far the law, and judicial attitudes, have retreated from the philosophy the Contempt of

Court Act was intended to reflect: a free society, represented by a free press, in which current issues can be thoroughly debated by all.

When Lord Hailsham launched the bill in 1981, he said: "At last my little ewe lamb has emerged... Make no mistake: this is intended to be a liberalizing bill... It will leave the law a good deal clearer than it is at present." Seldom has a legislative product come so glossily packaged. Lord Hailsham's message was one of spring-time regeneration and renewal.

The bill's aim was to align British law with the European Convention of Human Rights, in accordance with the European Court's judgment of April 1979 in *The Sunday Times* thalidomide case. This had condemned the House of Lords' injunction banning public discussion before trial of how the drug had been marketed here by Distillers (Biochemicals) Ltd. The court held that there was no "pressing social need" for the ban under article 10 of the convention. The trials involved negligence claims against Distillers, brought by the parents of hundreds of badly deformed children born between 1959 and 1962 whose mothers had taken the drug as a sedative during pregnancy.

The act came in on August 27, 1981, amid lavish claims that the power given to judges under section 4 to forbid the reporting of civil or criminal trials would be "used very sparingly"; and that it would allow "the genuine and well-founded anxiety of the press as to liability before proceedings begin - the imminent proceedings which have caused so much trouble."

Sensitive to the plight of journalists under uncertain laws carrying custodial penalties, Lord Hailsham unveiled his Garden of Eden, where clarity and legal enlightenment paved the way to editorial salvation. An underlying principle of the bill, he said, was "the protection of editors so that they know exactly where they stand".

Ten years on, where is that? Sadly, a long way outside the garden gate. Today, journalists must pick their way across a mine-strewn landscape where survival tends to be short-term. Judicial concern



for press freedoms has been at best peripheral, and at worst non-existent.

Orders forbidding reports of open court proceedings because they are potentially prejudicial developed from a trickle to almost tidal-wave proportions. In the years to July 1989, while judges occasionally allowed the press to address them, newspapers had no formal right to be heard at all on the merits of whether they should be allowed to report trials.

This meant that courts became conditioned to believing that considerations other than those put forward by the parties were irrelevant.

In 1989 the media were given a right of audience, but it is severely limited: it confines any challenge to trials in the crown court, and until last autumn, could be exercised only on appeal once a banning order had been made. On September 26, the Court of Appeal sensibly suggested that crown court judges should allow the media to put their case either at the start of the trial or at the earlier pre-trial review stage.

Less than a year after the contempt act was passed, in a case involving the *Daily Mail*, an insular aside from Lord Diplock declared that *The Sunday Times* would be no more at liberty to publish its thalidomide article after the act than before.

What was the point of *The Sunday Times* establishing a principle in Strasbourg merely to have it scorned at the first opportunity by the English courts? A complaint to the European Committee of Ministers about this volte-face went unheeded, and the legal position is unchanged today.

Lord Hailsham's belief that clarity would replace the confusion of the "imminence" rule must surely rank as the self-delusion of the century. The act set a timetable for the "high-risk" period of strict liability shortly before the trial - when the media had to be particularly sensitive to the need not to create prejudice - which was relatively easy to apply.

But nobody recognised the time bomb of section 6(c) ticking away in the background. In cases originating in the *Spectator* litigation from 1986, this provision, penalising "intentional" contempt, has been interpreted to erode both the certainty and the time limits of the strict liability rule. This has effectively re-established the doctrine of "imminence" in the law.

Worse, this issue is now trapped in a web of legal controversy. In fining *The Sun* £75,000 in February 1988, a two-judge divisional

court decided that material, published well before any arrest or charge, amounted to "deliberate" contempt where it implied a belief in the guilt of someone likely to be prosecuted. But in a case against *The Sun* in May 1991, two judges of another divisional court differed between themselves on the same point, where the prejudice was said to arise from the revelation of a murder suspect's previous convictions.

Editors therefore do not "know exactly where they stand" under the present law: their only certainty is that testing the legal boundaries will be depressingly expensive.

For remedies, one could suggest, if not abolishing then at least severely curtailing sections 4 and 6 of the act, giving as much emphasis to the media's rights to challenge reporting bans, in all courts, as to the parties' rights to have them imposed.

Far more credit should be given to juries for their ability,

in the words of Lord Justice Lawton, "to look at a matter fairly even though they may have to disregard what they may have read in a newspaper". The concentration required in any criminal trial is sufficient to make conscientious jurors totally oblivious to media comment.

The law should be reviewed with article 10 of the European Convention far more in mind than our legislators or judges have done so far.

On the day the act came into force, I said in this newspaper: "It will undoubtedly require a conscious effort of adjustment by English judges to break out of the mould of their thinking hitherto - but unless they do, the European exercise and its consolidation into English law will have been a worthless and abortive exercise." I believe that is precisely what has happened.

● The author is the legal manager of Times Newspapers

Mushroom partners

THE solicitor billed by his firm as one of the partners may have as little say in the running of the firm as the office cleaner. Many partners are salaried and, unlike the office cleaner, have precious little employment protection.

Laura Watson, the solicitor who sued her former partners at the Kent firm of Argles & Court, was a salaried partner. During the hearing it was alleged that some of her former partners had behaved like "loads" and had frog-marched her from the premises. She lost her claim for damages for slander. Her case highlights the vulnerable position of salaried partners, who often have all the disadvantages of being a partner and none of the advantages.

Solicitors' firms are controlled by equity partners who are so called because they control the capital, or equity, of the firm. They share in the profits of the firm. Also shown as partners on the firm's letterhead will be salaried partners who have no capital in the firm and receive either a salary or fixed sum as a share of the profits. The partner who gets a fixed share in the profits will be self-employed and have none of the employee's protection from unfair dismissal. Many salaried partners are women and they have no entitlement to maternity benefits.

They are often excluded from important partners' meetings and have no say in what the firm does. Despite this, because they are called partners, they are just as liable as the

other partners for the firm's debts and other liabilities.

The status of the salaried partner is often low and they are nicknamed "mushrooms" because they are kept in the dark by the equity partners.

Solicitors' insurance premiums against professional negligence claims used to be based on the number of partners and this gave firms an incentive to keep the number low. Many solicitors were then described as "associates".

The basis of calculating the insurance premiums was changed in 1984 from a fixed premium per partner to a percentage of the firm's turnover.

Very rapidly the associates became partners on the notepad. In most cases their positions had changed very little but the firm was able to appear larger and at the same time reduce its obligations to its employees.

Because the Law Society Master Policy for professional negligence insurance offered reductions in premiums for firms with a high ratio of partners to staff, some firms could actually save on their insurance costs by making assistant solicitors into partners on a fixed share of the profits. Because to the outside world the salaried partner seems the same as an equity partner, he is unlikely to complain about his plight. All salaried partners aspire to being equity partners and nobody who rocks the boat is likely to be invited to join the equity partnership.

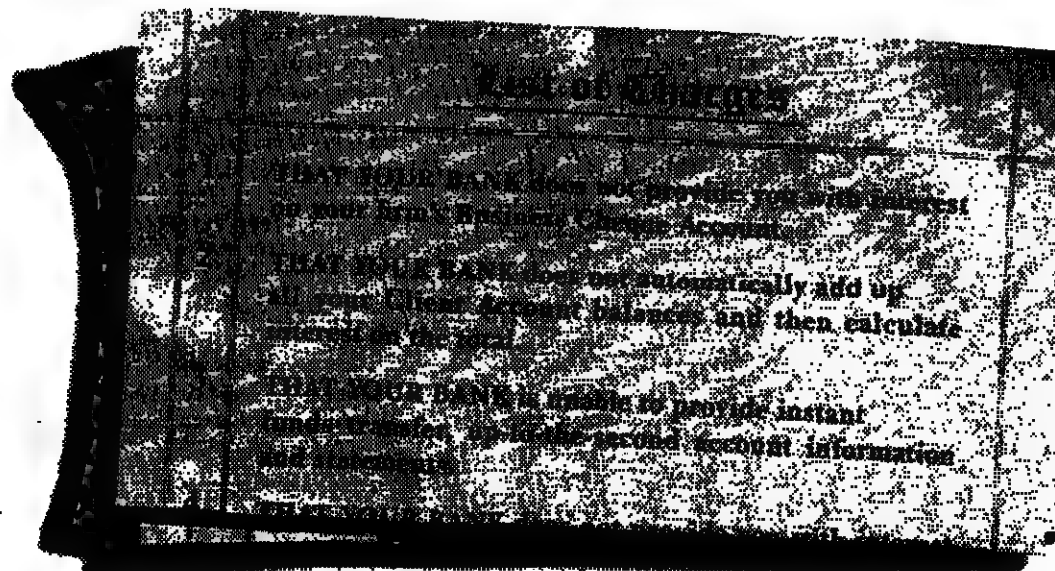
● The author is a practising solicitor



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Fine for some

LAWYERS who are disciplined by their bar association could also face a fine of up to \$100,000 under a proposed bill in California. Other professionals who fall foul of the rules are already fined and some Californian legislators argue that the same sanction should apply to lawyers. The fine would be imposed whether or not the lawyer had stolen clients' funds.

The only other state in the United States to fine lawyers is Nevada, where the upper limit is \$500. The move coincides with the run-up to the American Bar Association meeting, where proposals to make the whole disciplinary procedure more open to public scrutiny will be discussed. The association believes that it is necessary to be seen to be effectively sanctioning rogue lawyers if the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession is to be preserved.

Fair lesson

ONE of the highlights in the stormy mass rally of 2,000 lawyers last week was the largely unreported speech by Gareth Williams, QC, chairman of the Bar. To rousing applause, he said he had one thing in common with the Lord Chancellor and it was spending many hours as a child in Sunday school. "But the difference is that I listened to what the preacher said. What he said was that the labourer is worthy of his hire," Mr Williams told them. "But he wants his reward in this world, not the next."

The Bar chairman said he liked and respected the Lord Chancellor and bore him no ill will. But he had brought lawyers together out of "deep anger at being treated like dogs". Nobody, he said, "gets fat on legal aid work. What we demand is prompt payment of money earned: fair

pay, fair terms for fair work properly done. Is it in 1992, such an unreasonable request?"

Lot of rubbish

LOBBING your dustbin bags out on to the pavement may soon land you in jail. From April, individuals and com-



panies will be legally responsible for taking care of what happens to their waste, and failure to do so will be a criminal offence, which could carry a maximum jail sentence of five years or an unlimited fine. Only householders disposing of everyday household waste will be exempt.

Fast response

THE organisation Irchin (Independent Representation For Children In Need), based in Merseyside, is expanding its children's advocacy services in the North-West, North-East and Midlands. It already runs a telephone helpline (0800 616101) for children in any part of the country who need any sort of representation. Its new campaign is to put together teams of childcare solicitors, guardians *ad litem*, teachers and educational and clinical psychologists, as far as possible multiracial as well as multidisciplinary, to respond quickly and flexibly to children's requests for assistance.

Regional coup

HAMMONDS Suddards, the Yorkshire law firm with offices in London and Brussels, has effectively taken over ICI's in-house litigation department. The firm has been awarded a contract to handle ICI's litigation work in the UK, and as part of the deal three ICI solicitors become partners in the firm. More ICI legal, managerial and support staff are expected to follow. Most of the work, previously handled in-house by ICI, will be dealt with from the firm's London office.

Good sport

SPORTS and the law are in the news this week. David Gower, the cricketer, is to act as "media consultant" to a new public relations consultancy, Head Public Relations, which is aimed at the legal profession. The idea is that smaller firms who cannot afford full-time public relations can use Head only when they need advice. Gower says: "Most solicitors have no experience in dealing with the press."

The same week, it was announced that Brian Moore, hooker and vice-captain of England, had joined the commercial law firm, Edward Lewis & Co. The firm wanted to emphasise Moore was joining "on the strength of his legal acumen rather than his role as a rugby international".

Marshall law

CAN European law entitle industrial tribunals to override upper limits on compensation imposed by English law? The House of Lords has asked the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg to clarify the issue, which has arisen in the case of *Marshall v Southampton Area Health Authority*. Helen Marshall has already been to Luxembourg

once on the main issue of the case, which resulted in the European Court ruling that it was a breach of the Equal Treatment Directive to retire women compulsorily at an earlier age than men.

The directive also requires member states to offer real judicial protection for breaches, in other words adequate levels of compensation. Miss Marshall was awarded £19,405 compensation by the industrial tribunal despite an upper limit of £6,250 imposed by the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. The Employment Appeal Tribunal and the Court of Appeal both held that the tribunal had been wrong to override national law. The House of Lords has concluded that the European judges will have to sort it out.

Gene match

DNA evidence has been ruled admissible by the first federal court of appeals to rule on the issue. In *US v Jakobetz*, Randolph Jakobetz was convicted of kidnapping and rape after the court allowed DNA evidence to be admitted. The evidence compared a sample of Jakobetz's blood with a semen sample taken from the victim. The FBI found that the two samples matched and that there was a one in three million chance that the semen sample could have come from someone else.

Faced with a series of court of appeal decisions that had limited the use of DNA evidence, the Second US Circuit of Court Appeals held: "We do not think that a jury will be so dazzled or swayed as to ignore evidence suggesting that an expert's testimony was improperly conducted or that testing procedures had not been established." The court went on to hold that a trial judge was entitled to take judicial notice of the general acceptance of DNA testing techniques and not conduct an exhaustive survey of the procedures adopted in every case.

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Delays in
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Two years ago, when recruitment was booming, appointments were made swiftly. Such was the pressure to fill vacancies, employers would frequently make a job-offer at a candidate's first interview.

Today the pace is much slower. I cannot remember a time when economic prospects were so uncertain or law firms so unsure as to their future workloads and staffing requirements. As a result, recruitment in private practice is becoming more drawn-out (especially for non-contentious vacancies). Firms can afford to wait before filling their vacancies, and they are aware there is no shortage of candidates. They may have seen someone they're happy with, and be on the verge of making an offer, when details of another suitable candidate arrive starting a fresh round of interviews.

Our advice in these hard times is to be patient. We have placed several candidates this month whose C.V.s were originally submitted last September/October. In one case, there was a delay of two months after the second interview. The candidate assumed the job had gone in fact, the firm was waiting for major clients to commit themselves on future work. Two years ago, if you got an offer three weeks after the second interview it meant you were probably not the first choice. Their first (and perhaps second) offers had been turned down. Today, if you do get an offer you probably are first choice, even if you have had to wait two months. Delays in recruitment should no longer be taken to mean 'No'.

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JONATHAN WREN LEASING

As safe as house agents

Richard Houseago examines the responsibility of employers to care for the safety of their workers

The kidnap of Stephanie Slater raises the question of the responsibility of employers for the safety of their employees while at work. Miss Slater, who was released after her kidnapper was paid a ransom, may wonder whether or not she has a case to sue her employers for damages.

In cases of other attacks on people going about the course of their work, the obligation of the employer to ensure their employees' safety has not received full effect. In the Stephanie Slater case, would the employer be considered to owe or to have discharged any duty of care towards her?

Many employees dealing with the general public are at risk from attack victims in recent months have included nurses, social workers, transport and shop-workers. Now probation officers have threatened to strike because of more attacks on them.

The employer has a statutory obligation for the health and safety of employees, and the extension of this obligation to guarding against criminal assault is, in principle, clear. The courts, however, have shown a marked reluctance to uphold claims against an employer.

This is possibly because of the availability of an award from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB). Courts seem to consider this a satisfactory remedy for the victim; however, this has meant that the obligation for health and safety on the part of the employer has not been fully brought to bear.

First, an employer's willingness to implement greater preventative measures may be increased by the threat of damages, even if they are to be funded by liability insurers. Second, from the victim's point of view, compensation from the employer might not only be greater than that received from the CICB, but often the claim might be settled sooner.



Back in her father's arms: Stephanie Slater is unlikely to be able to claim against her employers after being kidnapped at work

Lastly, since the CICB awards are publicly funded, the question could be asked: is it right that the public should bear the cost where the employer might be considered at fault?

As yet, no court of authority has found in favour of an employee claiming compensation from the employer after assault. The type of cases from which the courts have established the general principle are rather distinct from high-profile kidnappings, but are still relevant. They have generally been of an attack by robbers on employees collecting wages, or delivering takings to the bank. Such a case was *Charlton v The Forrest Printing Ink Company Ltd* (1980), which remains the leading author-

ity in this area. Mr Charlton was almost blinded when a flask of ammonia was smashed in his face by robbers; the court had to decide whether his employers were at fault in exposing him to the risk of attack.

The case confirmed the general principle that an employer who does not take steps to eliminate a foreseeable risk (and not just a mere possibility that would not occur to a reasonable person) may be regarded as negligent. On the facts of the case, the court declined to make an award in favour of Mr Charlton, finding that reasonable steps had been taken to eliminate, as far as possible, the risk. In all related cases, of which there have been a number, the same principle

has consistently been upheld, but in no case has an award actually been made. Some cynics would take that as being an indication of public policy.

The key issue therefore is the foreseeability or likelihood of the risk to the employee: there must be more than a mere possibility, which I believe would be the finding in any case of kidnap.

Although the judiciary have been slow to make use of the overriding principle of a duty of care, which they have established, the industrial tribunals concerned with employees' dismissal claims have been more ready to make awards. In *Keyes v Shoejyre Ltd* (1978), an employee, the manager of a shoe shop in Peckham,

south London, felt pressured to leave her job after a number of violent robberies and following several requests to her employers to improve security. Her case for constructive dismissal was upheld on the basis that her working conditions were so unsafe that she had no option but to quit. The industrial tribunal readily found for her, although by the nature of the claim Ms Keyes's award was modest.

A claim for damages by Ms Slater would be likely to fail; as times change, however, and in a case of a threatened nurse in the casualty ward, health authorities might be on their guard.

● The author is a partner with the London solicitors, Jarvis & Banalister

When in Rome, get a computer and fax

Edward Fennell finds that English firms are exploring links with the Italians

Italy may feel left out this year as Spain, its Mediterranean neighbour and rival, hogs the attention with the Olympic Games, Expo 92 and the festivities marking the arrival in the Americas in 1492 of Columbus — who was Genoese, not Spanish.

The celebrations are a magnet for business and a number of international law firms have been drawn to Madrid and Barcelona. Italy has been attracting less interest, despite her bigger population and more advanced economy.

A few law firms are taking Italy seriously. Simmons & Simmons has seconded a senior assistant solicitor in the company and banking field to the Milan firm, Studio Avv. Eugenio Grippo, with which Simmons & Simmons has worked closely for many years. Penningtons now has four partners fluent in Italian and an assistant lawyer qualified in both English and Italian law.

According to Michael Nathanson, a Penningtons partner, English lawyers have been wary of Italy because doing business there depends on personal relationships, perhaps more than it does anywhere else, and it takes time to adjust to Italian ways.

"Unless you have an Italian lawyer to provide friendship and support, then doing business there is very tough," Mr Nathanson says.

But there is still business to be done. Penningtons is heavily involved in Italian litigation and some banking work and Mr Nathanson detects gradual changes in attitude as the Italian business community catches a little of the 1992 Euro-fever.

In Rome there has been a frisson of interest in the recent alliance between the Studio Legale Associato and Frere Cholmeley, the London firm.

Studio Legale Associato is a recent partnership formed by four Italian lawyers and one American who broke away (as Italian lawyers tend to do) from one of the largest law offices in town.

According to Antonello Corrado, a founder partner of Studio Legale Associato, the old firm was fractured by a disagreement over direction: he and

others wanted the firm to become a genuinely modern international law practice and the rest of the firm disagreed, so Mr Corrado and his friends left.

Once their ambitions were known, they were soon approached by several London firms. They chose to join up with Frere Cholmeley, which had already established an office in Milan.

When Italian regulations permit they will join Frere Cholmeley in a multinational partnership. For now, they will be as close as possible without merging. "We are sure we have done the right thing," said Mr Corrado. "There is a growing interest in the Italian business community in the kind of service we can provide."

Perhaps more importantly, inward investors from northern Europe and the United States may be keen to deal with an Italian law firm that is tuned in to the Anglo-American way of doing things. Unusually for Italy, Studio Legale Associato's offices bristle with computers and faxes. It is already picking up Scandinavian clients of Frere Cholmeley who are switching from other Italian lawyers to get a more familiar style of service.

Tim Razzell, the managing partner at Frere Cholmeley, says making the Rome connection completed an important Italian loop. "Milan and Rome are like New York and Washington. While Milan is excellent for the commercial community, as soon as you are doing anything to do with the government or regulatory bodies, when you need permissions, you need to be in Rome."

"By establishing this formal collaboration with Studio Legale Associato we are working with people who can steer our clients through the Italian bureaucracy."

Mr Razzell, feigning the unease of the lonely pioneer, says: "Either we're ahead of the game or everyone else knows something we don't." But with 1992, Spanish-Italian business is expected to grow quickly. Columbus may not be the last Italian to see his fortune lying in the West — and Frere Cholmeley also has a Spanish office.

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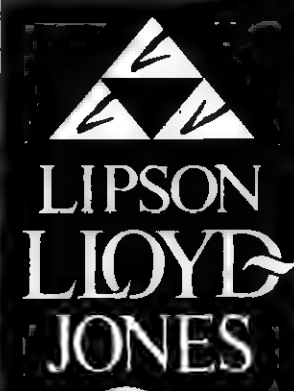
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[Judgment February 7]

Where justices came to the conclusion that a defendant need not be granted bail because it had not been practicable to obtain sufficient information to decide whether or not to grant it, that was not a decision not to grant bail.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in quashing the refusal of Calder Justices on December 2, 1991 to hear a bail application on behalf of Sean Francis Kennedy.

Paragraph 5 of Part I of Schedule 1 to the Bail Act 1976 provides: "The defendant need not be granted bail where the court is satisfied that it has not been practicable to obtain sufficient information for the purpose of taking the decisions required by this part of the schedule for want of time since the institution of the proceedings against him."

Paragraph 2 of Part IIA of Schedule 1 to the 1976 Act, as substituted by section 154 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, provides:

"At the first hearing after that at which the court decided not to grant the defendant bail he may support an application for bail with any argument as to fact or law that he desires (whether or not he has advanced that argument previously)."

Mr Guy Kent for the applicant: the justices did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said the applicant had been arrested

on November 21, 1991 and appeared before the respondent justices on November 22. The justices and the applicant had accepted a submission from the prosecutor that it had not been practicable to obtain information on which a decision about bail could be made.

A full bail application had been made unsuccessfully on November 25. On December 2, the applicant's solicitor had been refused the opportunity to make a second full application, on the basis that the justices had twice decided not to grant bail.

On a true construction, the words "at the first hearing after that at which the court decided not to grant the defendant bail" in paragraph 2 of Part IIA of the 1976 Act, as substituted, referred to a decision other than a decision

under paragraph 5 of Part I of Schedule 1 to the Act.

A decision under that paragraph, or perhaps more accurately, an expression of satisfaction under that paragraph, was not a decision not to grant bail. It was a decision or expression of satisfaction that the justices were not in a position to take a decision about bail.

The justices had been in error in deciding as they did. The first occasion on which they had decided not to grant bail was November 25. On December 2, the applicant's advocate was entitled to make a full bail application without reference to fresh circumstances and *mandamus* would be granted to enable such an application to be made.

Mr Justice Brooke agreed.

Solicitors: Basra Singh & Sweeney, Bradford.

AC 442. Lord Bridge said that for the purposes of the section trial meant the process of determining the guilt or innocence of the accused.

The stipendiary magistrates had not begun to try the information when he decided to commit Webb. His power was a statutory power and he had not brought himself within that power.

The case would be remitted with a direction to proceed to summary trial. It was hardly necessary to add that in the course of that trial section 25(2) would remain available to the court.

Mr Justice Brooke agreed.

Solicitors: Tyndallwoods & Millichip, Birmingham; CPS, Birmingham.

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Mr Justice Brooke agreed.

Solicitors: Tyndallwoods & Millichip, Birmingham; CPS, Birmingham.

Mr Graham Kent, to pay the higher fees required of overseas students.

The Education (Fees and Awards) Regulations (SI 1983 No 973) provides: "7... it shall be lawful to charge higher relevant fees in the case of students who have not a relevant connection with the United Kingdom... than in the case of students having such a connection."

By regulation 6: "... a student has a relevant connection... if— (a) he has been ordinarily resident therein throughout the three year period preceding... the beginning of the first term of the student's course; and (b) he has not been resident therein, during any part of the three year period, wholly or mainly for the purpose of receiving full-time education."

Mr Philip Naughton, QC, who did not appear below, and Mr Maurice Cottle for UCL: Mr Nicholas Padfield, QC, who did not appear below, and Mr Dominic Chambers for Mr Kent.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that Mr Kent had been born in Singapore of an English father and had been brought up there. Prior to his eighteenth birthday, when he would have been liable for military service, he came to this country on February 1, 1988 with the claimed intention of settling here for the rest of his life.

He lived with an aunt in Maidstone and took his A levels there. His parents came to England in August 1990, following his father's retirement and were now settled here.

Mr Kent applied for entry to the college from October 1991 when he would have completed three

years residence in the United Kingdom.

The college took the view that he did not satisfy the entrance requirements for home students, by reason, *inter alia*, that his purpose in coming to England was mainly or primarily to complete his education by taking a full-time educational course and then proceeding to go to the university. Mr Kent challenged that decision in view of the financial implications.

What was abundantly clear from the form of declaration sought and that made by the judge was that the procedure by originating summons in the Chancery Division was misconceived and the wrong procedure.

The matter raised was entirely one of public law in relation to the powers and duties of University College under public law. It was not concerned with the private rights of Mr Kent at all and should have been dealt with by way of an application for judicial review to the Queen's Bench Divisional Court.

The point that the matter should have gone by way of judicial review was a point of, in the broad sense, jurisdiction which the court should not overlook because of *O'Reilly v Mackman* (1983) 2 AC 237, 285 Lord Diplock stressed that it would be a general rule "... be contrary to public policy, and as such an abuse of the process of the court, to permit a person seeking to establish that a decision of a public authority infringing rights to which he was entitled to protection under public law to proceed by way of an ordinary

action and by this means to evade the provisions of Order 53 for the protection of such authorities."

The question of proceeding by way of judicial review had been discussed but both parties had agreed in inviting Mr Justice Mummery to hear the case in the procedural form in which it had been brought.

It was now too late to let the matter go with the possibility of proceedings in the Divisional Court. The court had heard the appeal although it came from a judge before whom the matter should never have been put.

The crux of the matter was whether Mr Kent's residence prior to his parent's return home in 1990 was wholly or mainly for the purpose of receiving full-time education.

The judge had been fully entitled to take the view that the intention of settling was the dominant intention to which the purpose of receiving full-time education, however important, was ancillary.

It was the well-established procedure in the Chancery Division where proceedings were heard on affidavits that if the good faith of the deponent was being challenged, there should be an application for cross-examination. No such application had been made and there was no basis for doubting in substance Mr Kent's evidence as to his good faith.

His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Butler-Stuart agreed.

Solicitors: Wedlake Saint Hobson Audley.

Committal in excess of powers

Regina v Birmingham Magistrates Court, Ex parte Webb
Before Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Brooke
[Judgment February 3]

The words "summary trial" in section 25(2) of the Magistrates Courts Act 1980 referred to the process of determining the guilt or innocence of the accused.

A stipendiary magistrate who committed a defendant for crown court trial at a preliminary hearing, reversing a previous decision of lay justices that the defendant should be tried summarily, was acting in excess of his powers.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in remitting to Birmingham Magistrates Court a charge of "supplying cannabis

against Tracy Webb.

Miss Rachel Brand for the applicant: Mr William Fussy for the respondent stipendiary magistrate.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said three ounces of cannabis and £705 together with a quantity of jewelry had been found at Webb's flat. She had pleaded guilty before a lay bench to two charges of possessing cannabis but not guilty to a charge of supplying the drug and the bench decided the matter should be tried summarily.

She next appeared before a stipendiary magistrate who expressed surprise at the justices' decision. He indicated that if the chief prosecution witness came up to proof he would probably ex-

ercise his power to commit the case for crown court trial under section 25(2) of the 1980 Act.

The matter was adjourned again, and at the next hearing before the stipendiary magistrate a woman police constable was called who confirmed the accuracy of her proof of evidence.

The stipendiary magistrate proceeded to consider the matter as an examining judge and committed Webb to the crown court for trial.

The power to commit under section 25(2) did not arise until the court had "begun to try the information summarily". Those words should be given the narrow interpretation laid down by Lord Bridge of Harwich in *R v Dudley Justices, Ex parte Gillard* (1986)

AC 442. Lord Bridge said that for the purposes of the section trial meant the process of determining the guilt or innocence of the accused.

The stipendiary magistrates had not begun to try the information when he decided to commit Webb. His power was a statutory power and he had not brought himself within that power.

The case would be remitted with a direction to proceed to summary trial. It was hardly necessary to add that in the course of that trial section 25(2) would remain available to the court.

Mr Justice Brooke agreed.

Solicitors: Tyndallwoods & Millichip, Birmingham; CPS, Birmingham.

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The Attorney General wishes to appoint a new Director of the Serious Fraud Office as soon as possible.

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The world at a surveyor's feet

There are more jobs than applicants in a profession that takes a close look at the land and the sea, says Sally Watts

Day after day, in all weathers, Adam Greenland navigates up and down the River Thames, monitoring the channels of the estuary and river to ascertain minimum depth and determine what type of vessels can pass.

Mr Greenland, aged 29, is a hydrographic surveyor and marine officer with the Port of London Authority (PLA). Several years in the Merchant Navy influenced his career choice, and in 1985 he enrolled at East London Polytechnic for a BSc honours degree in surveying and mapping sciences. His final-year options for offshore work — geodesy, sedimentology and oceanology — coupled with the core subjects gave him wide knowledge and professional techniques.

His first job was site surveying in the North Sea. As part of a team, he collected data that had to be processed ashore and interpreted by his company's geophysicists and by oil companies. The object was to find pockets of gas and decide how flat and safe the seabed would be for drilling and positioning of oil rigs.

Mr Greenland is now at

Gravesend, Kent, working with a PLA team to monitor the channels, which are always changing as bars form and areas silt up. Relatively few surveyors are in hydrographics — inshore and offshore marine surveying — but the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says the need is growing, and there are more jobs than applicants.

This also applies to mineral surveying, which can involve anything from diamond mining to gravel extraction, and to marine resource management, where surveyors are needed in, for example, coastal engineering, land reclamation and fisheries work.

Thirty per cent of qualified hydrographic surveyors are at work overseas, and Mr Greenland sees opportunities in the opening-up of Europe. His aim is to be a port hydrographic officer. He is now in the final stages of qualifying, and is preparing an analysis of the estuary channels.

Chartered surveyors have a wide career choice. In addition to those already named, there are general practice, rural practice, involving managing estates and farms, building and quantity surveying,



Mapping the Thames: Adam Greenland surveys the changing channels of the river estuary

or property, in which surveyors deal with urban planning and development projects from start to finish. General practice is the largest area, attracting nearly half of all surveyors, probably because there are so many aspects, including valuation, investment, management and agency.

You can specialise in housing, plant and machinery or channels,

in which you would value fine art and advise on auctions and on furniture, silver and paintings.

Ways of training also vary, including three-year honours degree courses, four-year sandwich courses, five-year part-time courses and distance learning. All but the three-year course count towards the Test of Professional Competence, which leads to

charterhip. This normally takes two years, or three years for quantity surveyors. Graduates with non-related degrees can take a conversion course or prepare part-time for a diploma while working in a surveyor's office.

Michael Newey, aged 28, is in general practice with a City company. Like Mr Greenland he likes the variety of visiting and valuing

properties from London to Newquay, arbitrating and negotiating. He once led a rent review team and now, as the company chairman's personal assistant, he handles company liaison.

He was uncertain about career choice on leaving school and spent time gaining experience with a practice in Kent, then graduated in land management at Portsmouth Polytechnic. He is now an associate of the Institute.

Mr Newey is keen on working with beginners. In 1990-1 he was the national student liaison officer, visiting undergraduates on courses to explain the wide range of careers open to them.

He has also been a careers coordinator for his county, and was one of the production team for a new careers video.

"I find careers work incredibly satisfying," he says. "You get involved, meet people and build up a network." Michael is now the vice-chairman of the junior organisation of the institute. All these activities bring opportunities for networking.

The Institution has set up a schools-company scheme, linking sixth forms at 2,300 public and private schools with 1,500 surveyors to provide information and, sometimes, work-shadowing.

Further information: Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Education Department, Surveyor Court, Westwood Way, Coventry CV4 8JE (071-222 7000 and 0203 694757)



Double fair date

DIRECTIONS Week '92, which is supported by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and runs from June 30 to July 4 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, north London, will combine two career fairs this year. The first, the London Graduate Recruitment Fair, from June 30 to July 2, is organised by London University's careers advisory service.

The second, the Schools' Fair, on July 3 and 4, is for school-leavers going into higher education or employment and will provide career counselling covering degree choice, university and vocational training programmes. Seminars and career workshops will enable all students to meet representatives from business and colleges.

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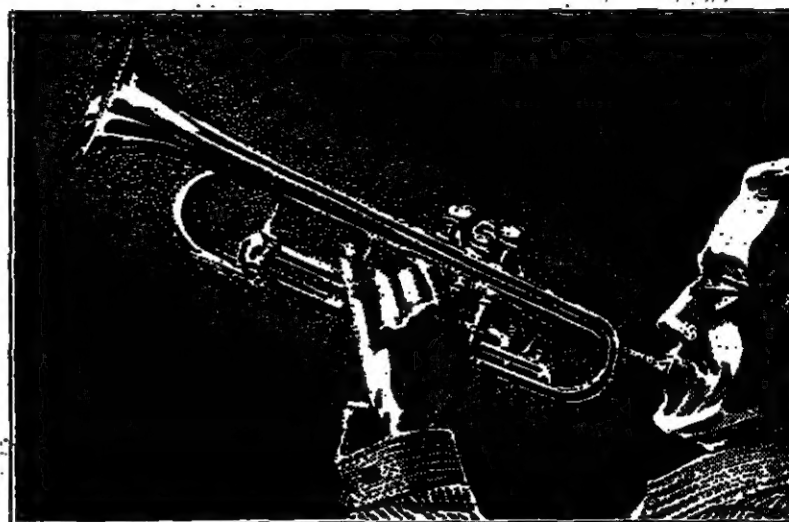
Interested applicants are to apply in confidence by February 28, 1992, quoting reference number: MHRH100, to our local contact: Karen Harvey, Rada Recruitment Communications, 195 Euston Road, London NW1 2BN. Telephone: 071-388 8564.

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The History of Parliament wishes to recruit a Research Assistant for the new 1422-1509 Section under the Editorship of Dr Linda Clark.

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Further details, including information on how applications may be made, may be obtained from: Mrs Beverley Rouse, Personnel Department, Central Services Agency, 25 Adelaide Street, BELFAST BT2 8PH.

The closing date for applications will be 4.00pm on Friday 6 March 1992.

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9.05 **Kilroy**, Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (4037708) 9.50 **Hot Chefs**, Ken Hom prepares prawns and scallops in a light black bean butter sauce (5555555)
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (8942455) 10.05 **Playdays** (1525321) 10.25 **Playdays** (1525321) 10.35 **No Kidding**, Quiz game show for families (3315857)
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather (791892) 11.05 **Wildlife**, Fergus Keeling introduces film clips of animals taking mud baths, dust baths and water baths (7202031) 11.30 **People Today**, presented by Miriam Stoppard and Adrian Mills (3951252). Includes news, regional news and weather at 12.00
12.20 **Pebble M&M**, Music and chat introduced by Judi Spiers (s) (3894692) 12.55 **Regional News** and weather (50591234)
1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather (17352) 1.30 **Neighbours**, (Cee-fax) (s) (6013555)
1.50 **Olympics '92**, Helen Rollason introduces action from the men's giant slalom, the 4 x 10km men's cross-country relay and the team event in the 3 x 10km Nordic combined (3197857)
3.50 **Joshua Jones** (7593944) 4.00 **The New York Bear Show** (1) (6954876) 4.10 **Jackanory**, William Rushton with *Tarts and Pies*, the second of five stories by Anthony Smith (3573760) 4.30 **Fantastic Max** (1) (6281321) 4.35 **The Really Wild Show**, includes a visit to the Welsh Mountain Zoo (Cee-fax) (s) (2259410)
5.00 **Newsround** (7552295) 5.10 **Gameplay** (1) (6210741)
5.35 **Neighbours** (1), (Cee-fax) (s) (241418) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Chris Lowe, (Cee-fax) Weather (525)
6.30 **Regional News** (505), Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 **Holiday**, Sue Cook samples the delights of Madeira as a winter resort; David Jessel, in the Umbria region of Italy, to test his culinary skills; and Rose King discovers ways of holidaying in London without breaking the bank. (Cee-fax) (s) (4963)
7.30 **EastEnders**, (Cee-fax) (s) (789)
8.00 **The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin**, Following the demise of the Perrin's commune, Reggie decides that a job at Amalgamated Aerospaces is not to be sniffed at (1) (Cee-fax) (5853)
8.30 **A Question of Sport** introduced by David Coleman. This week Bill Beaumont and John Barnes are joined by Laura Davies, Dewi Morris, Chris Woods and Richard Corrie. (Cee-fax) (s) (9418)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with John Humphrys, (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (5012)



In the driving seat: Jill Baker as the cab firm boss (9.30pm)

- 9.30 **Rides**.
● **CHOICE**: A good-natured piece of feminism from producer Lavinia Warner of *Tenko* and writer Carole Hayman charts the misadventures of a London mini-cab firm run by women. The series has echoes of Debbie Horsfield's *Adrian Mole*, though the humour is less earthy. Jill Baker plays the bustling and resourceful boss, drawing on her 23 years in the army to mould an assortment of misfits and layabouts into an effective fighting force. To underline the point about a woman coping on her own, Hayman gives Baker a teenage daughter to look after but no husband. The other women characters help to embellish the feminist theme and include a Turkish girl in flight from a repressive family, a black single mother and a rejected actress. All the men in the show are in varying degrees rotten, though their misdeeds are mostly an occasion for fun. Male viewers need not take offence. (Cee-fax) (s) (585957). Wales: Week in Week Out 10.00-10.50 **Rides**
10.20 **Film 92** with Barry Norman. Among the films reviewed are *The Prince of Tides* and a re-mix of the 1950s classic *Father of the Bride*, with Steve Martin in the role originally played by Spencer Tracy. Plus James Fennell talking about his role as Britain's official censor (547505). Northern Ireland: Open House
10.50 **Olympics '92** introduced by Helen Rollason. The qualifying heats of the 1,000km short-track speed-skating, the men's giant slalom and the first two ice hockey quarter-finals (555573)
11.50 **Weather** (530459). Ends at 11.55. Northern Ireland and Wales (to 12.20am) **Film 92**
2.00am **The Way Ahead**, John Murray with details of April's new benefits for the disabled (1) (3842548). Ends at 2.15

BBC 2

- 8.00 **Breakfast News** (2374789)
8.15 **Westminster**, A round-up of business from both Houses (5959073)
9.00 **Daytime on 2**, Educational programmes
2.00 **News** and weather (10232302) followed by *You and Me* (1) (74979418) 2.15 **Britain by the Sea**, Professor Erik Holt continues his exploration of the insect world with a look at how they secrete odours to mark out their territory (7495854) 2.30 **See Hear!** Magazine series for the hearing impaired (1) (165)
3.00 **News** and weather (717357) followed by **Westminster Live** presented by Vivian White (4066334) 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather (758858)
4.00 **Catchword**, Paul Cocks with another round of the quiz game for wordsmiths (419)
4.30 **Wild World**, *Stargazing* - a Wildlife Western. A portrait of the Mahe National Wildlife Refuge, a fertile valley in the Oregon desert (1) (6174925)
5.20 **Growing Pains**, Geoffrey Smith is joined by Peter and Jackie Carter in the Croft Garden in North Cave, North Humberside (1) (3674302)
5.30 **Old Garden, New Gardener**, In the last of the series Geoff Hamilton and Guy Search give advice on getting rid of and planting trees (1) (Cee-fax) (554)
6.00 **Chymphae**, David and Lynn introduce highlights from day 11. The commentators are David Vine, David Coleman and Gerald Strickland (1196789)
7.45 **Assignment: The Second Liberation**, Peter Godwin reports on the birth of democracy in Kenya 26 years after independence. In an interview President Moi reveals how democracy was forced on him by the West and warns that his country may be ripped apart by tribal warfare (712234)



Foodies: Paul Heiney, Jill Golden, Michael Barry (8.30pm)

- 8.30 **Food and Drink**, How western Australian Aborigines cook exotic fish from the Pacific; and information on how women intending to become pregnant can shape their diet to ensure a healthy baby. Plus a recipe for ginger pudding. Presented by Paul Heiney, Michael Barry and Jill Golden (s) (7980)
9.00 **Quantum Leap**, Science fiction series starring Scott Bakula as a time-traveling scientist, in this episode going back to 1970 and into the body of a native American Indian helping his grandfather return to his reservation where he can die with dignity. (Cee-fax) (s) (709741)
9.50 **40 Minutes: She Married a Lifer**.
● **CHOICE**: Joanna Clinton Davis's film explores the romantic attachments which women can form with prisoners serving life sentences. Her three examples reveal much the same pattern. In each case the woman is on the rebound from a bad marriage, in which the husband beat or abused her. The new relationship starts through correspondence and continues through phone calls and visits. Asked why she wants to marry a lifer, the twice-divorced Linda replies: "Because he can't beat me up or go murder with the risk of being hurt. Linda is content to leave double murderer Jimmy safely behind bars. But Julie has no doubts about marrying Keith, who is coming to the end of his sentence, and Marie is already choosing wallpaper for the home she hopes to share with Tom. (Cee-fax) (749535)
10.30 **Movie** *Double Happiness* presented by Peter Snow (780079)
11.15 **The Late Show**, Arts and media magazine (s) (458586)
11.55 **Weather** (520012)
12.00 **Open University: Open Forum Magazine** (66548). Ends at 12.30am

ITV

- 6.00 **TV-am** (5383786)
6.25 **Keynotes**, Music quiz (1180081) 6.55 **Thames News** (4146128)
10.00 **The Time ... The Place ...**, A topical discussion (7316627)
10.40 **This Morning**, Magazine series (555215)
12.10 **Treasure Box**, Entertaining early learning series (2585857)
12.30 **News** with Carol Barnes, (Oracle) Weather (8610215) 1.10 **Thames News** (53550418)
1.20 **Home and Away**, (Oracle) (97476147) 1.50 **A Country Practice** (s) (52870741)
2.20 **Vive La Difference**, This week Manchester art dealer Vivian Starr swaps 24 hours with Vasco Mingione, an art dealer in Chania, Crete (2569449) 2.50 **Families** (4657933)
3.15 **ITN News headlines** (7823234) 3.20 **Thames News headlines** (7821471) 3.25 **The Young Doctors** (1) (5135286)
3.55 **Joan Smith**, Adventures of a little girl (7584383) 4.05 **Disney's Duck Tales**, (8663302) 4.30 **Cartoon** featuring Porly Pig (2898554) 4.40 **Just Us**, The first of a new drama series (1884963)
5.10 **Blockbusters** with Bob Holmes (5371147)
5.40 **News** with Carol Barnes, (Oracle) Weather (48974)
5.55 **Thames News** (7823234) 6.20 **Thames News** (Oracle) (673)
6.00 **Home and Away** (1) (321) 6.30 **Thames News** (Oracle) (673)
7.00 **Emmerdale**, Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales (5031)
7.30 **In Time of War**, The fourth of six episodes about the Falklands war (557)
8.00 **The 500: Previous Convictions**, Sun Hill officers investigate dubious dealings in a scrap yard. (Cee-fax) (5079)



Feuding flatmates: Harry Enfield, Martin Chuzzle (8.30pm)

- 8.30 **Men Behaving Badly**.
● **CHOICE**: A new sitcom by Simon Nye features Harry Enfield and Martin Chuzzle as two young men who share a flat. Chuzzle is the owner and Enfield is the workaholic lodger who never manages to pay the rent. That is one source of comedy. The bigger one is girls and sex. The lads talk a lot about both. Chuzzle is trying to ditch his girlfriend and Enfield has just been abandoned by his. By the sort of coincidence that could only be contrived by the writers of sitcoms the chicks suddenly get a new neighbour. Played by Leslie Ash she is a girl from Heaven, attractive, single and guaranteed to provide plenty of material for future episodes. At a guess the show should appeal most to young unattached men who share flats and have trouble with girls. Women's libbers will probably hate it and the rest of the population may simply feel left out. (Cee-fax) (s) (6558)
9.00 **Murder Squad**, The first of a two-part "fly-on-the-wall" look at the police investigations into the murder of a man stabbed in the grounds of Wimbledon football club (4708)
9.30 **That's Love**, Romantic comedy series (Oracle) (75079)
10.00 **News** at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Fiona Armstrong, (Oracle) Weather (7321) 10.30 **Thames News** (335498)
10.40 **Video** *Double Happiness*. The controversial film about a woman who marries a convict. (Cee-fax) (s) (709741)
● **CHOICE**: A profile of Andrei Sakharov, tries to suggest a contradiction between the father of the Soviet hydrogen bomb and the dissident who braved Gorbachev for not going faster down the democratic road. Perhaps there is no paradox. The young Sakharov was a brilliant scientist with apparently no interest in politics. He lived through the Stalin era as a celebrated nuclear physicist and seems not to have questioned the brutality of the regime, even when it arrested and shot two of his cousins. Only with the launch of the nuclear bomb, with its awesome power of destruction, did he start to have doubts. The film offers a straightforward chronological narrative, embellished with contributions from Sakharov's family and colleagues. It is a strong and moving story. What is surprising is how, in the early years of the Soviet society and seems not to have questioned the brutality of the regime, even when it arrested and shot two of his cousins. 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